

# THE JOURNAL

Friday, December 31, 2004

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**Sports** Gaucho girls now 9-1 with wins over Alhambra, Hogan-Vallejo [C1]

**Arts** Why we're into 'He's Just Not That Into You' [C8]

## 2004: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

# Cities grapple with controversies

By Alan Lopez  
STAFF WRITER

There was no shortage of controversy in El Cerrito and Albany this year, as residents made waves over San Pablo Avenue widening, fought cell phone antenna siting, and debated heated election issues. Even Kensington wasn't immune, as residents there dealt with fund-raising concerts at a poverty-stricken home.

### Views and views

The polarizing tree-view decision in El Cerrito ended with a compromise in May, less than a year after the city began a series of meetings to create a view-preservation ordinance.

Residents with Bay views wanted the legal means to have trees on their neighbors' property trimmed or removed.

Other residents wanted a more protective measure for trees.

After hours of sometimes-rancorous debate at more than six public meetings, the City Council approved a first reading of an ordinance in May, backed by the Sierra Club and considered a compromise — at least for some.

"I'm not sure pleased is the right word but it was a compromise solution," Ann Thrupp, coordinator for Friends of El Cerrito Trees, said recently. "I would like to see it even closer to Berkeley's (ordinance) but it was definitely better than an earlier solution."

Having lobbied for a strong view-preservation ordinance, resident Glenn Davis said he was

able to increase his view 40 percent this year because his neighbors agreed to remove their tree, without the need for legal action.

However, Davis, the spokesman for El Cerrito Homeowners, said the ordinance isn't strong enough to remove a tree from another neighbor's property.

"We're not happy with the ordinance, it's not what the people of the city deserved or asked for," Davis said recently. "It's not balanced. It makes it extremely difficult to restore your view."

"But we're going along with it to see how it works in practice. And we already know — it's clear the ordinance is not what we wanted. To make changes to the ordinance, we have to change the Council."

### Castro mural

One of the bigger contro-

versies in El Cerrito in 2004 was over a piece of public art most residents may never have noticed — a mural of Victor Castro inside the city's community center.

The issue began at the city's first diversity forum in October 2003, when Berkeley resident Cesar Cruz assailed the mural for being an inaccurate representation of history.

The mural depicts cowboys herding cattle, horse-drawn wagons full of people and American Indians gathering food and frolicking in the Bay. It's all dominated by Castro, a seminal figure in 19th-century El Cerrito history.

In March, city staff reported that it was going to take down the mural on the basis of recommendations by the city's human relations and arts and culture commissions.

El Cerrito Historical Society members and others came out



MARK DUFRENE/FILE

ALBANY'S 1966 City Hall no longer meets modern standards and codes, but a decision to fund its modernization and expansion became an issue in the City Council election.

against taking the mural down, writing letters to the city and complaining at public meetings. The city postponed the re-

moval, then in July, published the result of a survey showing 84

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## Railroad murders expand into myth

While a series of whistling killings did take place along the rails, the area of a violent freight gang is in dispute

By Tom Lochner  
STAFF WRITER

The last time Bill Palmi interviewed this stretch of railroad track it was lined with dense foliage and trees — camouflage for a homeless camp.

Today, the brush is largely gone. A tuft of pampas grass remains, behind it, the parking lot of a recently opened Target store. Nothing to muffle the drone of nearby Interstate 80.

On the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way in Albany, about 100 feet south of the Buchanan Street overpass, Palmi recognized a white PVC tube sticking out of the ground near where Village Creek emerges from a culvert under the tracks.

"He had a platform here, a wooden walkway, that he had built," said Palmi, retired as detective lieutenant after 26 years with the Albany Police Department. "An outer hooch, where he kept his bicycle."

Palmi separated the grass, stepped forward into "Cops and Serial Killers," the first chapter of his book "Murder on the Rails," about a multistate series of murders, written with freelance journalist and publicist Tanya Chalupa.

There was the inner hooch in his living quarters," Palmi continued. It was there July 25, 1965, that Albany police found



MARK DUFRENE/STAFF

RETIRED police detective Bill Palmi visits the Albany site where Robert Joseph Silveria Jr. killed a homeless veteran in the mid-1990s.

James "J.C." McLean — J.C. stood for Jesus Christ — stabbed to death, beaten about the head with a "goon stick," his boots and wallet gone.

"The isolated killing of a bitter, homeless Vietnam veteran did not create a public outcry," Palmi wrote.

What he didn't know at the time was that McLean's death was not isolated. It was part of a strange, violent, parallel world that ran right through Albany and other small towns along America's rail lines, the brotherhood of the Freight Train Riders of America.

The violent group, which railroad officials say is an urban myth, is peopled with men like Dogman Tony, Desert Rat, Arkansas Bobcat, and Sidetrack, real name Robert Joseph Silve-

ria Jr.

Palmi interviewed Silveria, known as the Boxcar Serial Killer, who has confessed to murders in dozens of states and was convicted in three.

The book provides an insider's view of the investigator's trade and the workings of small-town police agencies.

"Murder on the Rails" is also a personal story about a cop, a serial killer, their shared reverence for the Bible and affinity for Elvis Presley; and the strange circumstances that brought them together.

Along the way, Palmi makes observations more typical of a social worker than a police officer. Then again, he says, he has always been a cop who thinks "out of the box."

Palmi was the "Elvis" in

"Elvis and the Lawmen," an act he devised as a sergeant, singing about traffic safety as an Elvis Presley imitator to high school audiences all over California and several other states.

Silveria's criminality is rooted in a violent childhood, drug and alcohol use and a pivotal incident at a Vancouver, Wash., mental health agency when an attendant told a desperate Silveria, "Everyone has problems," and to take a number and sit down, Palmi said.

To conjure the rage necessary to bludgeon and stab his victims, Silveria would summon the memory of the incident by repeating the words "take a number" over and over, Palmi said.

The FTRA functions much as a gang, Palmi said. Silveria, now 45 and serving a double life

## Defendant claims mistaken identity

By Tom Lochner  
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — Mauricio Alvarez, the man accused of attacking a youth soccer referee in November in a dispute over the eligibility of a player, told an Alameda County Superior Court Judge last week, "I'm not the person who did this."

"I'm the owner of the team," Alvarez said, speaking through a court translator Dec. 3. "I'm not the coach."

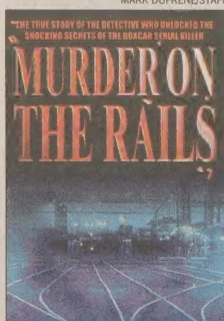
Alvarez was in court to be arraigned on charges that he punched and kicked referee Bruce Greenlee on Nov. 20 after the official disqualified Alvarez's team, the Richmond Cabritos, for failing to provide proof of eligibility and insurance for a player.

The incident, witnessed by several parents and other bystanders, occurred at Albany's Memorial Park at halftime of a morning tournament game between two teams of 8- and 9-year-olds. The alleged assailant had left the field by the time Albany police arrived.

Officials of the Alameda-Contra Costa Youth Soccer League identified Alvarez as the coach of the Cabritos and the person who allegedly attacked Greenlee.

Alvarez is charged with two misdemeanor counts: battery against a sports official and battery on school or park grounds, each of which carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail or a \$2,000 fine, or both, upon conviction.

Outside court, Alvarez said he believes authorities charged him with a crime because he is the only person registered as a Cabri-



LL William C. Palmi Jr. & Tanya Chalupa

sentence in Oregon State Prison, was part of a "death squad" that would collect debts and avenge perceived offenses, Palmi said.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Albany

## Residents sought to apply for committees

Residents are encouraged to apply for two vacancies each on the city's charter review committee and waterfront committee. The charter review committee advises the City Council on proposed changes to the city charter. These changes may be generated by the City Council or the charter review committee.

The waterfront committee advises the city on waterfront issues. For more information or to get an application, call city clerk Jackie Bucholz at 510-528-5720 or go online at [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org).

— Alan Lopez

## Council meeting canceled for Jan. 3

The City Council meeting of Jan. 3, has been canceled due to lack of business. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 18. For more information, call city clerk Jackie Bucholz at 510-528-5720 or go online at [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org).

— Alan Lopez

## Class on CPR, first-aid set for Jan. 22

The Albany Fire Department will hold a CPR class on Jan. 22, from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the fire station, 1000 San Pablo Ave.

The class will also include an introduction to first-aid and lessons on how to use an automatic external defibrillator, a machine that can be used to restore regular heart functions.

The cost of the class is \$35 and residents can register by stopping by the fire station in person. For more information, call 510-528-5770.

— Alan Lopez

## Albany-El Cerrito

## Cell phone antenna meetings set

Two meetings on cell phone antennas will be held in January.

On Monday, Jan. 3, the El Cerrito Council will consider an appeal of a planning commission decision allowing three Metro PCS cell phone antennas to be built on a light pole at El Cerrito High School.

On Tuesday, Jan. 11, the Albany planning and zoning commission will hold a public hearing on updating the city's wireless communication facilities ordinance that could regulate where cell phone antennas may be built in the city. Following the public hearing, the commission will likely make a recommendation to the City Council regarding the ordinance.

The Albany public hearing will be held Tuesday, Jan. 11, at the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 1000 San Pablo Ave., at 7:30 p.m. The ordinance can be found online at [www.albanyca.org](http://www.albanyca.org) or at the city's planning department at City Hall. For more information, call 510-528-5760.

El Cerrito City Council meetings are held at the community center, 7007 Moeser Lane. For more information, call 510-215-4305.

— Alan Lopez

## El Cerrito

## Public comment on Plaza plan ends Jan. 3

Residents have until Monday, Jan. 3 at 4 p.m. to submit written comments on the draft subsequent environmental impact report for the El Cerrito Plaza mixed-use development.

The controversial proposal is comprised of a 500-space parking garage, a 97-unit condominium development and 5,000 square foot daycare center. It will also restore a 180-foot portion of Cerrito Creek. It's proposed for the southeast corner of El Cerrito Plaza.

Residents can view the draft SEIR at City Hall or online at [www.elcerrito.org](http://www.elcerrito.org). The city's planning commission will need to certify a final SEIR with responses to the comments, before the project can move forward. For more information, call 510-215-4330.

— Alan Lopez

## Green Party, Democrats Club to meet

Politically active residents can meet like minds at two meetings in January. The next meeting of the El Cerrito Green Party will be held Jan. 10, at the Little Hong Kong Restaurant, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The restaurant is located at 10443 San Pablo Ave..

The El Cerrito Democratic Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at the Northminster Presbyterian Church, 545 Ashbury Ave. The agenda includes the election of club officers.

For more details about the greens, call Colene Turrell at 525-1370. For details about the club, call Rose Lernberg at 510-527-2194.

— Alan Lopez

## Martin Luther King, Jr. parade slated

El Cerrito's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Parade and Rally will be held Jan. 17. Residents should assemble at the El Cerrito DMV, at Kearney Street and Manila Avenue. After parading along San Pablo Avenue and up Moeser Lane, the rally will begin at 11 a.m., at the city's community center, 7007 Moeser Lane. The event is sponsored by the city's human relations commission, the El Cerrito Branch, NAACP and the St. Peter Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in El Cerrito.

— Alan Lopez

## Jan. 3 is deadline to apply for 6 vacancies

Residents have until Monday, Jan. 3 at 4 p.m. to apply for six vacancies on three city commissions.

There are three vacancies on the arts and culture commission, two on the human relations commission and one on the planning commission. Terms are for four years except for the two-year arts and culture position. The commissions meet monthly.

Applications can be found online at [www.elcerrito.org](http://www.elcerrito.org) or at City Hall, San Pablo and Manila avenues. For details call 510-215-4305.

— Alan Lopez

## ALBANY POLICE REPORTS

## Monday, Dec. 20

■ **TOYOTA STOLEN AND RECOVERED** — Richmond police reported locating a white 1989 Toyota Camry that had been stolen out of Albany. It was not damaged and they did not have anyone in custody. The owner was notified and the vehicle towed.

## Tuesday, Dec. 21

■ **HARASSMENT** — At about 2 p.m. three juveniles reported being harassed by three youths who followed them from the El Cerrito BART station to the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue and threw rocks at them. About an hour later officers arrested a 17-year-old Berkeley boy near the El Cerrito BART station for delaying an officer.

## Wednesday, Dec. 22

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 3:30 a.m. officers responded to a call from a resident on the 600 block of Adams Street reporting that her neighbor was yelling at another person over a gold 2002 Honda Civic. Officers arrested a 23-year-old Kensington man for disorderly conduct. He was cited and held to be released when sober.

■ **TOYOTA STOLEN AND RECOVERED** — During the night thieves stole a black 1991 Toyota parked at 555 Pierce St. Berkeley police located the vehicle at about 10:30 a.m. on the 1100 block of San Pablo Avenue. The owner was notified.

■ **BURGLAR ARRESTED** — Shortly before midnight a resident on the 900 block of Neilson Street reported that she observed three subjects who were inside a white 1991 Honda Civic walk away toward Sonoma Avenue. They were gone when officers arrived and a check of the vehicle found that it had been burglarized. About 30 minutes later officers contacted a 17-year-old Emeryville boy near Gilman Street and Northshore who matched the description of one of the subjects. He was found to be in possession of an illegal knife and was arrested. He was cited for possession of a weapon and transported to Juvenile Hall.

## EL CERRITO POLICE REPORTS

## Wednesday, Dec. 15

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 2003 Mitsubishi Galant was taken from the 400 block of Liberty Street sometime on Dec. 15 or Dec. 16. The vehicle was recovered on Fairmount at Lexington avenues.

## Monday, Dec. 20

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A 1997 two-door Honda Civic was taken from the 5800 block of Avila Avenue sometime between 8 p.m. on Dec. 20 and noon on Dec. 22.

■ **BURGLARY** — Jewelry and computer hardware were taken from a home on the 6100 block of Barrett Avenue sometime between 10 a.m. on Dec. 20 and 9 p.m. on Dec. 28.

## Wednesday, Dec. 22

■ **VEHICLE BURGLARY** — About \$7,800 in tools were taken from a

## Thursday, Dec. 23

■ **DUI** — Officers arrested a 24-year-old Hercules man driving a gray 1993 Toyota near San Pablo Avenue and Gilman Street for DUI. He was cited and released.

■ **AUTO BREAK-IN** — During the night thieves broke into a blue Toyota Corolla parked on the 1000 block of Curtis Street.

■ **BUSINESS ROBBED** — A caller at a business on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue reported that a man had just stolen a DVD player and fled in a silver Honda. He was gone when officers arrived.

■ **DUI** — Officers arrested a 32-year-old Berkeley woman in the parking lot of the Target Store on the 1000 block of Eastshore for DUI. She was cited and released.

■ **DISRUPTING THIEVES** — At about 6:30 p.m. a man and woman entered a business on the 1400 block of Solano Avenue and caused a disturbance. They reportedly smelled of alcohol and acted suspiciously. They were gone when officers arrived. About two hours later subjects of a similar description entered a restaurant on the 1100 block of Solano Avenue. The waitress was busy so they read the menu then decided to leave. After they were gone the waitress discovered cash missing from the register. Again, they were gone when officers arrived.

■ **PAINT BALL ATTACK** — At about 10:30 p.m. a resident on the 800 block of Kains Avenue reported that unknown subjects in a dark-colored SUV had just driven by and shot paint balls at her home. They were gone when officers arrived.

## Friday, Dec. 24

■ **DUI** — Officers arrested a 37-year-old Vallejo man driving a white 2004 Toyota pickup near Carlson and Fairmont avenues for DUI. He was cited and released.

■ **PAINT BALL ATTACKS** — Residents on the 700 block of Talbot Avenue and the 1200 block of Washington Avenue reported that vandals hit their homes with paint balls during the night. There were no witnesses in either incident.

■ **HONDA STOLEN AND RECOVERED** — During the night thieves stole a white 1993 Honda Accord from the 400 block of Evelyn Avenue. It was later located in Richmond and the owner was notified.

■ **PAIR ARRESTED** — At about 5 p.m. officers arrested two Richmond women, ages 29 and 30, in the parking lot of the Target Store on the 1000 block of Eastshore for grand theft auto, burglary, conspiracy. The 29-year-old woman was additionally charged for two outstanding warrants for burglary and the 30-year-old woman additionally charged with an outstanding warrant for welfare fraud. They were both cited and transported to Santa Rita Jail.

■ **PAINT BALL ATTACK** — A resident reported that her son was hit with a paint ball on his left cheek the previous night while on the 1000 block of San Pablo Avenue. The attackers were in a large blue SUV. Officers are investigating all incidences involving paint ball attacks.

## Saturday, Dec. 25

■ **JUVENILE ARRESTED** — A resident on the 700 block of Adams Street reported hearing someone go up the fire escape of her building. Officers arrested a 17-year-old Albany boy for delaying and resisting an officer. He was cited and transported to Juvenile Hall.

■ **BURGLARY** — At about 10 p.m. a woman returned to her home on the 700 block of Talbot Avenue and discovered it had been burglarized. There were no witnesses.

## Sunday, Dec. 26

■ **DUI** — Shortly after midnight officers stopped a blue Dodge Neon on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue for erratic driving. The driver, a 22-year-old Oakland man, was found to be intoxicated. He failed the field sobriety test and was arrested for DUI, failure to stop at a flashing red light, and driving without a license. A check found he had outstanding Oakland warrants for petty theft in the amount of \$5,000. He was cited and released.

■ **DUI** — At about 1 a.m. officers stopped a 24-year-old Oakland man

drive Drive.

■ **DUI** — A 29-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence at 10:30 p.m. at San Pablo Avenue and Blake Street.

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A red 1987 Toyota pickup truck was taken from the 3000 block of Yolo Avenue sometime between noon on Dec. 24 and 2 p.m. on Dec. 26.

## Sunday, Dec. 26

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A two-door Honda Civic was taken from the 5800 block of El Dorado Street sometime between 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 26 and 9:30 a.m. the next day.

## Monday, Dec. 27

■ **DUI, EVADING ARREST** — A man was arrested at 2:05 a.m. after failing to pull over during a traffic stop, police said. A police officer attempted to stop the driver at Potrero and San

driving a red 1988 Buick Wildcat. He had his children in the back seat and was driving on a suspended license. He was cited and transported to Juvenile Hall.

■ **STEALING** — At about 7 p.m. officers responded to a call from a Solano Avenue on the subject stealing baby food. A 29-year-old Oakland man was arrested for burglary. She was cited and transported to Juvenile Hall.

■ **PETTY THEFT AND ACY** — At about 7 p.m. officers responded to the Target Store on the 1000 block of Eastshore for petty theft and conspiracy. Two Berkeley men, ages 29 and 30, were cited and transported to Juvenile Hall.

## Monday, Dec. 27

■ **TOYOTA STOLEN** — A resident reported that a known thief stole a pickup parked near Kains and Fairfield Street.

■ **DISORDERLY CONDUCT** — At about 1 a.m. officers responded to a bar on the 700 block of Adams Avenue on reports of a fight. They arrested a 22-year-old Diego man and a 27-year-old man for disorderly conduct. They cited and held to be released when sober.

## Sunday, Dec. 26

During the week of Dec. 26, officers responded to a false alarm, attended to a male, six reports of battery, assisted one person who was out of a car. In the domestic violence cases, officers responded to 10 civil disturbances and 10 persons issuing 10 citations. Officers stopped 10 persons issuing 10 citations. Firefighters responded to one fire call and one medical emergency.

Pablo avenues. The officer hit Cutting Boulevard at 28th Street, where the vehicle was out of control. The driver was cited for evading, driving under the influence and possessing a suspended license.

## Tuesday, Dec. 28

■ **SHOPLIFTING** — A man allegedly shoplifted a pair of clothing from Marshall's and rested a block south of the front of Safeway at 7100

■ **VEHICLE THEFT** — A man arrested at 11:28 p.m. on possession of a stolen vehicle to the county hospital. He was later being assaulted while in the evening. The stolen vehicle was found parked on Hagen Boulevard and Morris Street. A teenager was arrested.

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## THE JOURNAL

4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806 • 510-528-5720

Shareef Dajani, general manager • Deborah Byrd, publisher

Subscriptions are \$30 per year if carrier-delivered within the Journal's circulation area. Mail subscriptions within the United States are \$75 for six months or \$145 per year. To subscribe or report a delivery problem call 800-598-4637.

## EDITORIAL

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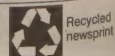
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# Resolutions are a chance for self-improvement

The thought of another year so soon after the beginning of this one is positively overwhelming. Is there any reasonable way to deal with this unbelievable passage of time?

Yes, here it is, yet another year. You are so right. How quickly they pass. This means that it's already resolution time! How do you change your life? What can you make your life better? Consider your mental fitness. Are you using your mind as much as you should?

Go for progress! Accept as many challenges as you possibly can. Push yourself to be as mentally active as you ever been. How many kinds of puzzles and problems can you discover? Check your newspapers and your bookstore. There are so many kinds available. Make a resolution to give it a truly determined try.

Almost everyone has a hidden project that they have considered taking on for a long time, but somehow the perfect time to begin it never seems to come. Maybe you have wanted to learn another language, take a challenging new class, or start a new hobby — the list is endless. Perhaps you have considered being a volunteer in a program that has attracted you, in which you might be helpful. Make a resolution that this is the year to begin that project. Take that final step into the activity. Make that change in your life at long last. It's an impressive start for the year.

If you have an ongoing problem, the New Year is a chance to make another positive change in your life. Every year I make my perennial resolution to control my anger. When I encounter the poor and dangerous driving situations in which we all have become involved. Often a short errand in your car becomes a truly frightening experience. The best reason for me is to be the most



CONNIE LYNCH  
Don't Lose Your Mind

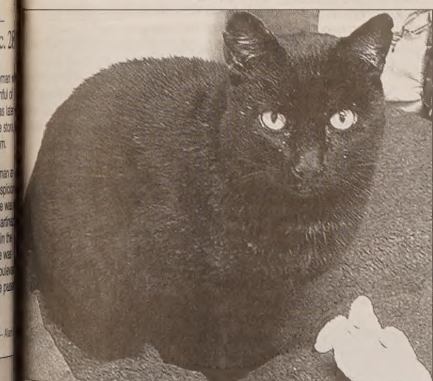
defensive driver possible. Be prepared to stop, move out of traffic, or whatever it takes to avoid an accident. It is true that my temper still flares on occasion when another driver performs some particularly stupid and/or dangerous action. But I think that I am at least a bit better controlled.

Another important resolution is to become more physically active, unless, of course, you are already operating at the top level of your capability. If you have any physical problems and you are considering starting any new physical activity, be sure to check with your physician to make certain that it is suitable for you. If you should decide to join an exercise program, a trainer or other advisor is likely to be available to give you an appropriate start, and an idea of the best way to continue. An energetic athletic program can be so very stress reducing. Well worth a resolution.

Mental and physical fitness are both so important to us as we "get on" in years. We so need to stay as fit as possible so that we can continue the ways of life that we truly enjoy. What better time to put everything in order? Make your appropriate resolutions and have a Happy 2005!

E-mail inquiries for Kensington resident Connie Lynch to [conniemw@aol.com](mailto:conniemw@aol.com). Lynch, is the founder of Mind Works, a mental fitness program designed for older adults and is the author of the book, "Don't Lose Your Mind, Four Components of Superior Mental Fitness." For information on books and classes, call 510-466-5833.

## PET OF THE WEEK



BERKELEY EAST BAY HUMANE SOCIETY

DOC is an 8-year-old male domestic shorthair. Those who know him at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society say that despite having a rough start in life, "he's one of the friendliest cats you'll find." They add that he could live with other cats, dogs, or small children. Doc may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society.

BERKELEY — The following animals may be available for adoption at the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society.

Dogs: Female Rhodesian Ridgeback mix, 3 years; male Labrador retriever-basset mix, 2 years; male Doberman pinscher, 1 year; female Labrador retriever mix, 2 years; female Boxer/terrier mix, 2 years; male border collie mix, 1 year; male German shepherd mix, 1 year; female German shepherd mix, 10 months; female Treeing Walker Coonhound mix, 10 months; male Labrador retriever, 10 months; female Doberman pinscher mix, 4 months.

Cats: 7-year-old female dilute calico, 7 years; female white, 2 years; female dilute calico, 3 years; female black-and-white, 8 months; male black, 5 months; male black, 8 years; female black, 8 months; female black and white, 2 years; female dilute

tortoiseshell, 4 years; female flame point Siamese mix, 4 years; female dilute tortoiseshell, 5 years; male gray and white, 8 months; male black and white, 9 months; female tortoiseshell, 7 years; female lynx point Siamese mix, 7 years; female black, 5 months; female black and white, 7 months; female calico, 3 years; male black, 6 months; female black, 7 months; female gray, 6 months; male tabby brown, 10 months.

Rabbits: male Californian mix, white with brown muzzle, 6 months.

Adoption fee: cats \$100; dogs \$125 — including spaying/neutering and age-appropriate shots. There is an overnight hold period. The Berkeley East Bay Humane Society is located at 2700 Ninth St., Berkeley. Its hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Information: [www.berkeleyhumane.org](http://www.berkeleyhumane.org) or call 510-845-7735.

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# Neighbors

## FACES & PLACES



CARMEN PAREJA, left, of El Cerrito and Claire Gorin of El Sobrante enjoy a laugh during a potluck lunch Tuesday at St. John's Senior Center in El Cerrito.

## Senior lunch volunteers hang up their aprons

Longtime kitchen workers are honored with a potluck meal at St. John's Senior Center in El Cerrito

WHEN PEOPLE take up the mantle of volunteer at St. John's Senior Center in El Cerrito, it seems they aren't in any hurry to put it down.

Take, for instance, Claire Gorin of El Sobrante and Carmen Pareja of El Cerrito. The two danced their swan song in the kitchen on Tuesday, and were feted at a potluck lunch.

Gorin started as a St. John's volunteer when her now-40-year-old twin sons, the youngest of her five children, were in fourth grade. She was in on the ground floor when the late Nancy Gans, a longtime advocate for the elderly, convinced several churches to open their doors once a week to area seniors in the early 1970s.

A cook for 21 years at the Elks Lodge when it was in downtown Richmond, Pareja was invited to help in the kitchen 10 years ago. That was when the late Marie Valadao, who died earlier this year, was the chief cook at the center.

Pareja had started coming to St. John's just to give a ride to



MARY REILEY  
Our Neighbors

a friend, and liked the once-a-week activities.

"They work very well together," said center director Dorothy Bolt. "They've rarely missed a day."

Gorin shops for the food on Mondays, and comes in early on Tuesdays to set up tables and the kitchen, arrange morning snacks and keep the sink clear of dirty dishes and pans as Pareja does the cooking.

"It's a fulfilling duty," Gorin said as she chatted in the kitchen Tuesday morning. "Being a volunteer is a commitment; it isn't something to take lightly."

Another 30-year volunteer who doesn't take her job lightly is 89-year-old Elma Glenn of Kensington.

"She's our computer girl," Bolt said when she introduced us.

Glenn keeps the records for the center, hands out name tags and gives a follow-up call to people who haven't come for a while. A retired nurse from then-Brookside Hospital in San

Pablo, she first came at the request of a former co-worker to help check the seniors' blood pressure.

Although Glenn knows she will have to slow down one of these days, she plans to keep going a while longer.

"I learn something new every time I come," she said.

The senior center is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays. It is at 6500 Gladys Ave., El Cerrito.

Needlecrafts, tin sculpture, pressed-flower card-making, painting and drawing, jigsaw puzzles, tai chi, sit-down exercises, conversational Spanish,

and card and table games are offered, and there are speakers each week. Lunch is served at noon by reservation; register before 10 a.m.

For more information on programs, or to volunteer, call 510-237-3808.

If you have tips about people or programs our readers would like to know about, call me at 510-262-2784, e-mail [mreiley@cttimes.com](mailto:mreiley@cttimes.com), or write to Neighbors, 4301 Lakeside Drive, Richmond, CA 94806. Our fax is 510-262-2776.

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## THE JOURNAL

"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

## EDITORIAL

## Editorially speaking

Over the past year the Journal weighed in on a number of issues from trees vs. views to the waterfront to schools. Some excerpts:

**El Cerrito is finally back in the swim**

1/16/2004 — The El Cerrito Swim Center opened after a nearly two-year, \$4.9 million renovation.

The swim center's "soft" opening at 6 a.m. on Jan. 12 revealed it to be an amenity that should make El Cerrito an even more attractive city in which to live and play. A grand opening is planned in the spring. But for the diehard swimmers, even January's the time — especially considering those locker rooms with their toasty floors — to take the plunge.

**Last chance to 'vision'**

1/30/2004 — Residents debated competing visions for the Albany waterfront, the beach element of which is virtually hidden behind the Golden Gate Fields grandstand and parking lot. The issue made for one of the most contentious City Council elections anyone could remember.

Two points to keep in mind: One, the property is privately owned and its owner, Magna Corp., will have to decide which plan to pursue. Two, if its plan varies from that allowed by the city's waterfront protection legislation, Measure C, the matter will go to the city's voters. Small wonder the corporation wants to get it right with residents the first time. This is a pivotal time in the development of Albany's western edge. ... If you have a vision — or want to weigh in on the visions of others — now is the time to get involved.

**Public education is everybody's burden**

2/6/2004 — The West County school district weighed closing schools to save money, but then decided it wouldn't have to — at least for this school year.

There are some very fine teachers in our schools who have sacrificed to save classes, who spend their own money on materials and who have stuck with the job as the obstacles mount. They have deferred salary increases — on salaries that barely give them enough to scrape by in this wildly expensive area in which we live. Meanwhile, our leaders at state and national levels smirk and promise not to raise taxes. Meanwhile, CEOs of major corporations rake in millions of dollars in salaries and perks. ... And meanwhile, our public schools often lack the most basic necessities: a new textbook for every child ... a desk for every child ... minimally comfortable classrooms ... clean bathrooms. You have to wonder what's wrong with this picture.

**Into the woods**

5/7/2004 — Following months of public meetings and discussion, the El Cerrito City Council approved a view ordinance which satisfied neither side completely.

It would be nearly impossible to determine exactly how many trees have been trimmed at neighbors' requests, or how many neighbors with views have decided they actually like their vistas framed by their downhill neighbors' trees all without the city ever having to become involved, because whatever happened, happened amicably. But when an exchange between neighbors goes bad and an ordinance has to come into play, a simple, pleasant outcome is unlikely and litigation is very likely. So if, despite the city's best efforts, this new view ordinance does lead to an initiative, perhaps the question to go to voters shouldn't be what kind of ordinance to have but whether the city should have one at all.

**Survey sample says: Let the mural stay**

7/16/2004 — More than 100 residents in a survey said they thought a historic mural should stay at the community center despite an activist's protest that it was racist.

The issue was and is what role public art should play, and whether art that in one era is considered inoffensive should be removed or destroyed when sensibilities change? ... A work like this mural not only tells us part of a historical truth about the time in which it is set, it also can help us learn about the time in which it was created.

**Longer parking times would help Albany**

9/3/2004 — Would increasing parking times at Albany's free spaces from 60 to 90 minutes encourage shoppers and help business, or frustrate people looking for spaces that turned over slower than before?

Small business owners have plenty of obstacles to contend with already. They are surrounded by big discount stores with their economies of scale, including large parking lots with no time limits. Most of them already are doing what small business owners have traditionally done to attract and keep customers: emphasize service, personal attention, quality goods and unique atmosphere. But it's not a help to have customers under the gun, and possibly staying away because they have to leave a parking space. This obstacle is one that's easy to fix, and we think it would be wise to fix it.

## YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

**State Senate**

**Don Perata:** (D-9th District: Albany, Berkeley) State Capitol, Room 4061, Sacramento, CA 95814, 916-445-6577. Fax: 916-327-1997; 1515 Clay St., No. 2202, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-286-1333. Fax: 510-286-3885. E-mail: senator.perata@sen.ca.gov

**Tom Torlakson:** (D-7th District: El Cerrito, Kensington) 2801 Concord Blvd., Concord, CA 94519; 800-859-9900 or State Capitol, Room 2068, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916-445-6083. E-mail: senator.torlakson@sen.ca.gov

**Assembly**

**Loni Hancock:** (D-14th District: Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Kensington, Richmond, San Pablo, North and West Oakland) State Capitol, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249, 916-319-2014. Fax: 916-319-2114; 918 Parker St., Ste. A13, Berkeley, CA 94710, 510-540-3660; Fax: 510-540-3655; 712 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-559-1406. Fax: 510-559-1478

**County Supervisors**

**John Gioia:** (1st District) 11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito, CA 94530, 510-374-3231. Fax: 510-374-3429. E-mail: dist1@bos.co.contra-costa.ca.us

**Keith Carson:** (5th District) 1221 Oak St., Ste. 536, Oakland, CA 94612, 510-272-6695. Fax: 510-271-5151. E-mail: kcarson@co.alameda.ca.us

**EBMUD**

**David Richardson:** Ward No. 4 (Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville; part of Oakland; El Cerrito and Kensington. E-mail: oakport@igc.org

**East Bay Regional Parks**

**Jean Sir:** Ward 1 (Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, part of Pinole, and San Pablo). E-mail: jsiri@ebparks.org

**AC Transit**

**Joe Wallace:** Ward 1 (West Contra Costa and Northern Alameda counties). E-mail: jwallace@actransit.org; phone 510-891-7143; fax 510-234-7689.

**Stegs Sanitary District**

Phone 510-524-4668 or see online at [www.stegsd.dst.ca.us](http://www.stegsd.dst.ca.us).

**Cities**

**El Cerrito:** City offices, 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-215-4300. E-mail: [citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

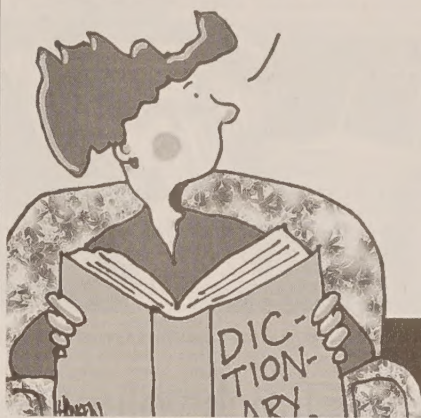
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**Kensington:** Fire Protection District 217 Arlington Blvd. 510-527-8395

JEFF HANSEN • HILLS NEWSPAPERS

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Support our military worldwide

It is heartwarming to read all the stories of the love and support for our military personnel away from home this holiday season while serving in Iraq.

However, there are others we should remember and thank, too. We have thousands of military in Europe, North Korea, Japan and Okinawa. There are thousands of others serving on Navy ships around the world.

There are thousands more stationed here in the United States who will not be home for the holidays. They all deserve our thanks and support.

We have thousands more veterans in VA hospitals who served in World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Gulf War suffering from diseases or disabilities resulting from their service. They all deserve our thanks and support.

Worst of all are the thousands of veterans from the Vietnam War and Gulf War suffering from the various syndromes related to their service. Too many of them are living on our streets because the health care, counseling and other programs promised when they were drafted or volunteered have been cut as part of our government giving the richest Americans their tax cut. These veterans also deserve our thanks and support.

So, the next time you walk by someone living on the streets, find out if she or he is a veteran. If they are, show your support, buy them a meal or a hotel room for a night. You will be surprised how good it feels. Peace and good will to all.

Alan C. Miller

El Cerrito

Miller is a retired Navy captain.

## Write legislators

California's energy crisis has made the point quite clearly: Relying on our current sources of energy is risky, expensive, and poses huge environmental and social risks.

We are blessed with a climate that makes solar energy a viable source for a significant portion of our energy. We have a tremendous opportunity to make this happen. Yet, we dilly-dally.

The Legislature has considered but failed to pass a bill encouraging the building of new homes in California with solar panels. The governor is for it but, somehow, inertia is taking hold. Our legislators and, in this case the governor, too, need a helpful kick in the pants from the public.

Here's a case where writing a few letters can have a profound impact on our future and our children's well-being. All it will take is a little shove from all of us.

Write to your legislator and to the governor now, demanding passage of the solar energy bill!

Julio Kaplan

El Cerrito

## Truly upside down

In his Dec. 17 letter titled, "Liberal philosophy," Gary Buffon accuses me (and other writers responding to Ella Jensen's letter) of several things that I never said. I see no point in refuting him.

He does, however, get one thing right. I do feel as if I am living in an "Alice in Wonderland" novel where things are upside down."

In this world, some Christians, who take their name from a spiritual leader espousing love and forgiveness, send hate-filled letters accusing others of being "hateful." And conservatives, no longer fighting to conserve, seem bent on radical change.

Citizens who respect the United States Constitution and want the government to adhere to its principles are called the unpatriotic ones.

Calling me a "liberal" doesn't make President Bush's policies a foundation for peace, any more than saying "freedom is on the march" makes the catastrophic, heart-breaking mess in Iraq a success.

Kay McArthur

Albany

## Albany City Council needs to be unified

Recently, I was disappointed when no driver in El Cerrito Plaza would yield to me as I pushed my full shopping cart from Trader Joe's to my car with a 1-year-old and 3-year-old in tow.

With increased traffic from the proposed 500 car parking garage and 97 living units, traffic will further jeopardize the safety of pedestrians.

I was elated to read the Dec. 24 Journal headline, "Albany critics say Plaza plan too big."

The number one concern for Albany about the proposal is increased traffic and motorists not yielding to pedestrians. My hat goes off to Councilman Robert Lieber and Vice Mayor Allan Maris for criticizing the Plaza plan.

Special kudos also to the Albany traffic planning commission for voting to close the streets from Albany to El Cerrito Plaza.

As residents of Albany, we need to ensure that the City Council votes 4-0 to back the recommendation of the traffic council to close Kains, Cornell, Talbot and Evelyn avenues.

It appears Lieber and Maris will vote for closing the streets.

I hope, as a proud resident of Albany, that Jewel Okawachi and Farid Javandel also recognize the impact the increased traffic will have on Albany and vote for closing the streets.

A 4-0 approval will send the message that Albany is unified to keep its small city as a pedestrian-friendly zone.

Hank Schwarz

Albany

## WRITE TO THE JOURNAL

Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces reflect the opinion of the writer and must include the author's first and last name, address and daytime phone number. All letters are subject to verification. Maximum letter length is 300 words. Maximum op-ed length is 450 words.

Letters are subject to editing for brevity, grammar and style. Not all letters may be published.

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Please write JOURNAL LETTERS on the envelope, at the top of the fax or in the subject field of the message.

## Marin Avenue plan

I live on Spruce Street near Marin Avenue in Berkeley and just recently learned about the proposed Marin Avenue widening project.

Have the Berkeley and Albany transportation planning departments completed Marin Avenue's function as a local transportation artery for disaster relief and evacuation? Most of the homes are located right along the road, and in a fire hazard zone.

I am a professional civil engineer and my job is to provide designs that will serve life and property in the event of a disaster strikes in this difficult environment. Marin Avenue is a key component, what is called lifeline infrastructure — is the only two-lane artery out of the hazard zone for tens of thousands of residents.

It makes me very nervous, as a professional and a resident, to contemplate Marin Avenue's reduced capacity as an evacuation route and a corridor to provide critical services.

I understand the arguments for modifications, but the fact of the matter is that Marin Avenue is and always has been a vitally important corridor. This function cannot be lightly ignored. This is a natural reason Marin Avenue needs this function.

I believe this is a case where restricting traffic flow does not best serve overall public safety and I am confident other appropriate measures can be implemented to improve pedestrian safety. I do not intend to be dramatic, as my dear friend of mine lost his sister in an Oakland hills firestorm. She was killed alive in her car trying to get down the hills, so these concerns are very real, and the memory is not very old.

One thing that good civil engineers learn from past mistakes. Recent history shows that hazard-zone residents need evacuation corridors and transportation planners cannot ignore their duty to provide good lifeline engineering.

If these structural changes are made, what alternative will be provided to offset the lost functionality? I am afraid that good intentions, in this case, may someday bring terrible consequences.

Jonathan Doherty

Berkeley

## A tragic war

This is regarding Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's cavalier attitude and statement that we go to war with the Army we have rather than the Army we wished we had. Rumsfeld apparently is an educated idiot.

I think, however, that there is more than a mere modicum of readers who are outraged by his disgusting remarks and firstly question Bush's intelligence and feverishly and so foolishly pushing the war button.

It is increasingly disturbing that this longer this violent and horrific conflict continues, the more apparent it is that there are no sightings on the horizon of indicating any end to the tragedy of this war.

The drums beat on. Lives are lost and bodies are maimed. And the spouses of those directly touched will be forever scarred and maimed as well.

Diane E. Stevens

Kensington



# ALBANY SCHOOL NEWS

## Albany High School

Albany Varsity Girls Soccer resumes its regular season this coming week after the holiday break. The Cougars will host Salesian on Wednesday (Jan. 5) and Beran Christian on Friday (Jan. 7). Both games start at 3:30 p.m. on Cougar Field.

The Career Day/Job Shadow Day Committee is looking for about 20 parents to serve as liaisons to match up Juniors with professionals working in careers the students are interested in.

The volunteer group will meet for a briefing on Jan. 11. In years past, the Air Force has provided mentors in the field of air traffic control and as pilots.

The committee is seeking an alternative for those students expressing the desire to "shadow" these professions. Volunteers may contact Peggy Schmidt at 510-237-7166. Job Shadow Day is Wednesday, March 16.

The girls' basketball team won a tough, nail-biter at Monte Vista of Danville on Dec. 20, 57 to 55. The winning shot was scored by Tori Nicks with 8 seconds left. Their first home league game is Tuesday, Jan. 4 vs. Salesian at 6:30 p.m. (JV) and 7 p.m. (varsity).

Mandatory meeting has been scheduled for anyone planning to try out for the 2005 Cougar baseball team, including both returning and new players, on Monday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. in the AHS Library. Parents and players must attend. Coach Jim Giblin (Varsity) and Coach Anthony Freeman (JV) will discuss the upcoming season, including tryout information, fundraising, field maintenance, and social activities that comprise the program. Player information will be discussed first to enable players to attend the regular 7 p.m. conditioning session, so punctuality is important.

Questions can be e-mailed to ashbaseballcoaches@hotmail.com.

For script orders, contact Norm Rossman at 510-558-0418, norm@normski.com.

For AHS current events, go to the AHS PTA calendar: <http://calendar.yahoo.com/albanyhigh-202>

To post events for the calendar or if you have questions for the AHS PTA, send a message to: [albanyhighpta@yahoo.com](mailto:albanyhighpta@yahoo.com) To receive the daily bulletin and important announcements by e-mail, contact Linda Okamoto at [topm@earthlink.net](mailto:topm@earthlink.net).

Jan. 3 PTA meeting, 7:00 p.m.

**Albany Middle School**

Principal's Virtual Coffee — bring your own coffee! Monday Jan. 3, 8-8:45 a.m., Room 112. Q&A with Robin Davis.

Session II of the Academic Support Program will be starting again Jan. 11. The Academic Support Program offers students academic assistance and a place to do homework. The tutors are paid or volunteers. All students are welcome, but must be serious about improving their studies. The atmos-

phere is serious and quiet, but pleasant and friendly. The session dates are Jan. 11-March 10 (8 weeks), on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5 p.m. in the AMS library. Registration forms are available in the AMS office, and registration is on a first come, first served basis. Cost is \$120. A few small scholarships are available. The program is sponsored by the University Village/UC-Berkeley. Information is available from Dara Birnbaum, Director of Youth Services, at 510-526-2043 or [birnbaum@uclink.berkeley.edu](mailto:birnbaum@uclink.berkeley.edu).

The Teacher Treats Committee (Sheila Erikson and Virginia McKee) extends thanks for all the delicious food brought in for the December Teacher/Staff Treats, a great way to wish the teachers and staff "Happy Holidays!" The teachers and staff appreciated the treats very much. This month's treats were contributed by the following folks (many of whom are regular contributors): Ida Abelson, Maggie Back, Sue Burger, Kim Caldwell, Christine Bourgeois-Donnelly, Liz Dunkle, Sheila Erikson, Maggie Freeberg, Barbara Guletz, Joyce Kessler, May Kwan, Varda Lawry, Lorraine Lerman, Anna Martinez, Debra Dove Masterson, Mary McKee, Virginia McKee, Laurie Mehdiadeh, Edith Morrow, Geoff Pillar & Karen Tiedeman and those who kindly brought something in but didn't get on the list.

AMS has passed the halfway point of the second semester and home progress reports have been mailed for students in danger of receiving a D/F. Students receiving a grade higher than D/F will not necessarily receive a progress report at this time. The halfway point in a semester is a good time for parents to talk to their children about their academic progress.

Families can sign up for eScript and register their Safeway Club Cards and/or Credit Cards at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or 1-800-801-4973. Everyday purchases greatly benefit AMS. The AMS PTA eScript ID# is 136556344. Anyone with questions should contact Barbara Guletz at [buguletz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:buguletz@sbcglobal.net) or 510-527-5775.

Jan. 3: School re-opens; Jan. 6: PTA meeting, 7:00 p.m., library; Jan. 12: Choir Concert, 7 p.m., AHS Little Theater; Jan. 17: NO SCHOOL — Martin Luther King Holiday; Jan. 19: Site Council @ 6 p.m. AMS library; Jan. 20: Parent Ed Night, "Pop Culture," 7:15 p.m., library; Jan. 21: Second Quarter ends.

**Marin Elementary School**

The cafeteria lunch menu is available on the Marin Web site. Anyone wanting to request a vegetarian alternative can call 510-558-2606 before 9 a.m.

**Ocean View Elementary**

Paper scrip is available on order at the office or by calling or e-mailing Laurie Amaro at 510-525-0476 and [scrip-mom@hotmail.com](mailto:scrip-mom@hotmail.com).

## Intangibles not considered in deciding library hours

Quote of the week: "Shortsighted: 1. unable to see far; near-sighted; myopic. 2. lacking in foresight: 'a short-sighted plan'."

— From "Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language" Library closures have been in the news lately.



JULIE WINKELSTEIN  
At the Library

other side of the people they are guarding. Gone are the impressions we carried away with us — of people dehumanized by numbers and identical outfits, yet continuing to read and discuss a range of paperback books, from Tolstoy to Harold Robbins to Machiavelli.

There are many intangible ways a library has an impact on a community, but when it gets down to voting or making decisions on how meager funds will be spent, it is much easier to consider the tangible. It is not unlike the intangible effects of sending a young soldier to a war in a far-away country. In both cases, the personal and long-lasting effects are not weighted as heavily as the immediate ones.

In the short term, closing a

library or reducing its hours means the money saved can be allocated for other services. And in the short term, people want to know there are police officers patrolling their streets or ambulances standing by for their emergencies. How can a book or a computer at a public library compare with the immediacy of public safety?

But is that all a library is? The excitement in a community when a new library opens belies the idea that it is simply a building full of library materials and computers. The daily, minute-by-minute interactions among staff and library users can leave impressions in ways that will never be appreciated.

I recently read a quote from "The Gift of Fear" by Gavin De Becker that really summed this up for me: "... No ceremony is attached to the moment that a child sees his own worth reflected in the eyes of an encouraging adult. Though nothing apparent marks the occasion, inside that child a new view might take hold. He is not just a person deserving of neglect or violence, nor just a

person who is a burden to the sad adults in his life ... No, this child might be someone else, someone whose appearance before this one adult revealed specialness or loveability or value."

Of course, it isn't only children who can benefit from this kind of attention and support. As I interact with the children and adults who come to the library, I am always aware of the institution that I represent. And as the representative, I support not only free and equal access — but also an interest in their interest, no matter what it is.

But to provide this service, our libraries need to be open. It is ironic that the local book stores — where each item must be purchased — are open not only every day of the week, but open 12 hours or even more a day. And the library, with its depth, breadth and free access, is open relatively few.

Reach librarian Julie Winkelstein at [jwinkelstein@aclib.org](mailto:jwinkelstein@aclib.org) or at the Albany Library, 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

## LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

The next Friends of the Albany Library book sale will be held Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is an ongoing book sale in the library during open hours.

The Albany Library, a branch of the Alameda County Library, is located at 1247 Marin Ave. For details on its services and programs, call 510-526-3720 ext. 20.

The El Cerrito Library will conduct its "Pot O' Gold" Reading Club for children in first through sixth grade from Jan. 3 through March 17. Children can read 10 books and earn prizes. The library also will present "Cat Stories and Crafts," on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 11 a.m. Children can listen to cat stories, then make a cat mask to take home.

The library also has announced its winter story times for children. Starting Jan. 6, Babytime Lapsit, for kids up to 2 years old, attending with a parent, will meet on Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. Also starting Jan. 6,

Toddlertime Lapsit for ages 2 and 3, attending with a parent, will meet Thursdays at 11 a.m. Picture Book Time for ages 3-5, meets on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. starting Jan. 4.

Readers Anonymous, the library's book club, meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Copies of the current selection are available at the check-

out desk. Next up: "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini (Jan. 24).

The El Cerrito Library is at 6510 Stockton Ave. For details call 510-526-7512.

■ ■ ■  
The Kensington Library will present Larry H. Marietta, director of the San Francisco City Chorus, on Monday, Jan. 10 at 7

p.m.  
The Kensington Library is at 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, CA 94707. Phone: 510-524-3043.

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# Calendar

Submissions to the Community Calendar must be received Thursdays one week prior to publication. Listings are on a space-available basis. Mail submissions to Pam Middings, 1516 Oak St., Alameda, CA 94501; e-mail: pmiddings@cctimes.com or fax them to 510-748-1680. Call 510-748-1683 if you have questions.

## Children

■ **Los Amiguitos de La Pena**, the popular Saturday morning La Pena Children's Program, 3105 Shattuck Ave., presents the following events: Celebrate Juanita Ulla's new Christmas songs & her CD with a cake in the Rosca tradition at 11 a.m. on Jan. 8. \$5. — **Germar the Magician** performs on Jan. 15. — **Colibri**, Latin American traditional & original music for the whole family is on Jan. 22. — **Earthcapades** with Lissin & Hearty: the funniest and hottest juggling duo in the world is on Jan. 29. Shows start at 10:30 a.m.; cost: \$4 adults, \$3 children; unless noted. 510-849-2568 or www.lapena.org.

■ **Confeiti Arts Week at Habitat** is Jan. 2-8 at 2065 Kittredge St. Celebrate the new year all week at Habitat. Children can make collages with New Year's confetti and streamers. Event free with admission. Admission: \$6 child, \$5 adult. 510-647-1111 or www.habitat.org.

■ **Lawrence Hall of Science** presents Beakman's World on Tour exhibit through Jan. 2. Exploratorium sampler exhibit shows through May 1. Many favorite hands-on exhibits. — Admission \$4.50-\$8.50. 510-642-5132 or www.lawrencehallschoolscience.com.

■ Registration has started for **Winter Twilite Basketball League** at Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Services Center, 1730 Oregon St., Berkeley. Program is an educational sports program for youth between 11-18 years old. Youth attend a one-hour workshop preceding each game on issues such as tobacco and drug prevention, academic improvement, conflict resolution and more. League is divided up into three age groups, begins on Jan. 7 and continues through March 19. Cost is \$263 per team or \$23 per individual player. Priority is given to West and South Berkeley residents. 510 981-6670.

■ **Luna Kids Dance** offers a free Parent/Child Dance Class, free Creative Dance/Improvisation Class (for ages 6-10) and Open House at 2-4 p.m. on Jan. 8 at Grace North Church, 2138 Cedar St. A morning of performance, play, improvisation, refreshments and family fun. Help your children expand their realms of creative expression, and nurture their desire to formulate connections with the world around them. Meet the Luna Kids Dance faculty, enjoy refreshment. Winter class sessions begin Jan. 11; go to www.lunakidsdance.com or call 510-644-3629.

■ **El Cerrito Preschool Cooperative** presents Memories and Traditions workshop with Bev Bos at 7-9 p.m. on Jan. 26 at El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, El Cerrito. Nationally acclaimed child development expert and author Bev Bos will discuss importance of traditions and examines sub-

staining value of childhood memories. Discussed will be how to hang on to traditions, make new ones, and how to recognize roadblocks to establishing and maintaining traditions. Bring a family photo to workshop. Tickets: \$12; discount available for groups of 10+. Details/registration: go to www.ecpkids.com or email at elcerrito-preschool@yahoo.com.

■ **Cirque Eloize**, Quebec's troupe of acrobats, aerialists, and athletic dancers perform at 11 a.m. on Jan. 30 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. One-hour performance for Bay Area schoolchildren. Tickets: \$3; call in advance 510-642-1082.

■ **South Africa's beloved Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Vusi Mahlasela** perform "Long Walk to Freedom" at 11 a.m. on Feb. 3 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Choral-group singing, soul-stirring harmonies and soaring mbube chants in a one-hour performance for Bay Area schoolchildren. Tickets: \$3; call in advance 510-642-1082.

## Community

■ **Lawrence Hall of Science**, on Centennial Drive above UC Berkeley, presents: New Year's Eve Party is 12-2 p.m. on Dec. 31. — Brian Scott's Wizard School Magic Show is 1 p.m. on Jan. 2. www.lawrencehallschoolscience.org or call 510-642-5132.

■ **Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto**, 1919 Fourth St., offers a New Year's Eve night out for the whole family. Watch the ball drop at Times Square on TV at 9 p.m. on Dec. 31; complimentary kids meals (12 and under) and sparkling cider for youngsters, complimentary champagne for parents; party favors. 510-845-7771 or go to www.spengers.com.

■ **World Affairs & Current Events** discussion group beginning 10-week winter session on Jan. 3 at Albany Senior Center, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany. Meetings are 9:45-11:15 a.m. every Monday. Cost: \$2.50 per session with refreshments. Details: call 510-524-9122.

■ **North Berkeley Senior Center**, 1901 Hearst Ave., presents the following events: Guy Gash and the Sharp Five Jazz Band at 1:15 p.m. on Jan. 5. — Classical piano by Steve Aronson at 1:15 p.m. on Jan. 12. — Connie sings Yiddish songs at 1 p.m. on Jan. 14. — Aurora Theater producer-director discussion of Dublin Carol at 1:10 p.m. on Jan. 25. Those attending receive a matinee ticket for Jan. 29th performance. — All events are free. www.cb.berkeley.ca.us/seniors/NBSC/nb or call 510-981-5190.

■ **Programs at the Albany Senior Center**, 846 Masonic Ave., Albany: Mercy Brown Bag Program is at 9:30-10:30 a.m. on Jan. 7, 14. Call 510-524-9122 to sign up. \$10 per year. — 55 Alive / Mature Driving Course is at 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Jan. 14, 21. Must attend both days. Cost: \$10. — Low Vision Support Group is at 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. on last Monday of each month. Free. — Massage Therapy is Tuesdays at 2:30-5 p.m. and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cost: \$10 per 15 minute session. Smoking Cessation Group, Fridays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., sliding

scale \$3 - \$10 per week. — Senior Issues Support Group, Thursdays 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., \$15. Call 510-524-9122 for information, registration.

■ **Berkeley Richmond Jewish Community Center**, 1414 Walnut St., presents the following events: "Bay Area Landscapes that Make You Smile", an exhibit by artist Stan Cohen, begins Jan. 10 in lobby. — "Getting Along with Your Adult Children" participatory workshops are at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 1. Fee: \$40/public per session, \$35/BRJCC members. — "Brown Bag College Conflict in Jewish Identity: Looking at our Own Lives" with psychologist, author and lecturer Dr. Jerry Diller is at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 12. Fee: \$5; registration at 11 a.m. — "Tu B'Shvat: A Meeting Point between Cyclical & Linear Time" is at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 18. Discover layers of meaning related to Tu B'Shvat by exploring text that spans hundreds of years of Jewish thought. With Avital Plan. Fee: \$5. — Details: go to www.brjcc.org. Call: 510-848-0237 x110 or email info@brjcc.org.

■ **American Red Cross** will be having a mobile blood drive in various locations: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Jan. 21 at UC Berkeley Blood Drive, MLK Student Union, Pauley Ballroom. Details: call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE or go to www.Bloodonor.com.

■ **Judah L. Magnes Museum** and Lehrs Haus Judaica are offering a docent training class on Thursday evenings starting Feb. 3 at 2911 Russell St. Open to all who are interested in Jewish culture, history, and art. This course will prepare students to become docents (volunteer educators/tour guides). Registration/details: call Faith Powell at 510-549-6933.

## Exhibits

■ Third annual "Visions of the Holidays" Art Exhibit is through Dec. 31. Downtown merchants and the creative community of local artists, senior center art class students and kindergarten through college students display their artwork in storefronts throughout downtown Berkeley. Free. Details: call 510-549-2230 or go to www.downtown-berkeley.org.

■ **Gathering Tribes Gallery**, 1573 Solano Ave., presents Marian Denipah (Tewa) and Steve LaRance (Hopi), award winning Native American jewelers exhibiting fine bracelets, rings, necklaces and more in 14kt gold and silver with precious and semi-precious stones through Dec. 31. — Details: call 510-528-9038.

■ **ACCI Gallery** presents its annual celebration of exceptional handmade crafts through Jan. 1 at 1622 Shattuck Ave. Wide range of handmade ornaments, cards, ceramics, glass and more from over 100 local artists. Details: call 510-843-2527.

■ **Lee Tanner's "The Jazz Image"** photography exhibit is showing through Jan. 24 at Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge. Mon., Tues. 12-8 p.m., Wed-Sat 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Photographer's talk at 12 p.m. on Jan. 8 in Central Commu-

nity Room. Free. Details: call 510-981-6100 or go to berkeleypubliclibrary.org.

■ **"Eye Talk Art—Visions from Three NIAD Artists"**, featuring artwork by Debra Colbert, Marion Mullen and Kevin Randolph at Britt-Marie's Café & Wine Bar Art Gallery, 1369 Solano Ave., Albany, through Jan. 9. 510-527-1314.

■ **"Objects and Representations of Balinese Religion and Culture"**, an exhibition from collection of Clare and Joe Fischer is showing through Jan. 15 at Graduate Theological Union, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road. Details: go to www.gtu.edu/library.

■ **UC Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive** presents the "Blind at the Museum" Jan. 26 - July 24; "Matrix 214: Mark Manders" and "Matrix 215: Althea Thauberger" Feb. 6-April 10. 2625 Durant Ave #2250. www.bampfa.berkeley.edu or call 510-642-0808.

■ **La Pena Cultural Center**, 3105 Shattuck Ave., presents paintings by Mexican-American artist, educator Cecilia Elvira Garcia through Jan. 31 in lobby. — Portraits in Charcoal exhibit by Antonio Gutierrez Rodriguez shows through Feb. 28 in cafe. Details: go to www.lapena.org or call 510-849-2568.

■ **Albortoss Pub** presents "Music in the Air", paintings by Liz Maxwell through Jan. 31 at 1622 San Pablo Ave. 510-843-2473 or www.albortosspub.com.

■ **A.G. Rizzoli's "Transfigurations"** exhibition is showing through Feb. 2 at Graduate Theological Union, Flora Lamson Hewlett Library, 2400 Ridge Road. Visionary images of a fantastic world. 510-649-2541 or www.gtu.edu/library.

■ **Judah L. Magnes Museum** presents "Surviving Suprematism: Lazar Khidekoff" exhibition through March 20 at Reuttering Gallery, 2911 Russell St. Artist was a pioneer in avant-garde movement in Russia called Suprematism, and his career spanned height of Soviet empire through end of Communist era. — **"Revisions: Ann Chamberlain"** exhibit shows through Feb. 27. Relationship between cemeteries and museums, sacred ground and secular space is explored. — Suggested admission: \$6 adults, \$4 students/seniors. www.magnes.org or call 510-549-6950.

■ **Berkeley Art Museum/Pacific Film Archive**, 2625 Durant Ave., offers the following exhibitions: — "Turning Corners", a collection of radical/nonconformist artists, and "Figurations", a changing variety of perspectives on the human form, through Jan. 22, 2006. — Details: call 510-642-0808.

## Film/dance/stage

■ **La Pena Cultural Center**, 3105 Shattuck Ave., hosts the upcoming events: **New Year's Eve** dance with José Roberto Hernández and his special musical guests: Saúl Sierra, Marco Díaz, Julio Pérez, Silvestre Martínez, and others. Count down to Año Nuevo with a mix of Latin rhythms and hot musical fusions at 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 31. \$20 advance, \$22 at door. — **Hecho en Calles Exhibit Group** show featuring young Chicano/Latino artists including

Kara Andrade, Jesse Hernandez and Eliana Dominguez is through Dec. 31. — Fundraiser send off of the Social Equity Caucus Delegation to the World Social Forum in Brazil features Latin music combo Los Nadies and Andres Soto. Speakers, silent auction, spoken word, DJ and more at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 7. \$5-\$25 sliding scale. Details: call 510-839-9608. — **La Nina Flamenco Series** featuring La Tania, Jose Valle "Chuscales" and special guests is at 8 p.m. on Jan. 8. \$18 advance, \$20 at door. — **Domingo de Rumba** community participatory event is at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 2, 16. — **Cafe Poetry** is at 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Kira Allen on Jan. 12 and by Richard Moore on Jan. 19. — **Germar & Gerald's Comedy-Magic Night** is at 8 p.m. on Jan. 14. \$10 general, \$8 kids, students, seniors. — **Montano Groove Dance** is at 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 15. \$10. — **American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee** presents Palestinian documentary film "Until We..." at 8 p.m. on Jan. 21. \$8. — **Annual Pat Parker Tribute & Celebration** is at 8 p.m. on Jan. 22. \$10-\$20 sliding scale. — **Swirl Bay Area documentary film "A Beautiful Blend: Mixed Race in America"** is at 3-5 p.m. on Jan. 23. — **Showrinho** from Brazil plays choro and samba-choro fusion called chorinho at 8 p.m. on Jan. 27. \$10. — Cuban son meets Latin jazz: **Tiempo Latino and La Familia** musicians have jam session/dance at 9 p.m. on Jan. 29. \$10. Details: go to www.swirlinc.org. Fernando Torres at 510-494-2568 or www.lapena.org.

■ **Johnny Steele's New Year's Eve Music & Comedy Show**, "Hilarious Hoedown and Jocular Jambores" is at 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 at Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. Send '04 packing with Johnny as he hosts an evening of stand-up comedy, foot-stomping music and knee-slapping sketches. Guests include Geoff Bolt, Andrew Ault, with his comical retro slide show, "Other People's Vacations"; and music by the funny olde time western band, Red Meat. There'll be surprise dance in guests, the Year in Review Q&A featuring contestants from the audience, complimentary champagne and the Good Riddance '04 Midnight Countdown. Tickets: \$28 adults, \$22 student/seniors; call 925-798-1300. 510-845-8542 or go to www.juliamorgan.org.

■ **New Year's Eve Flamenco Fiesta** at Cafe de la Paz featuring a stage performance by Yaelisa & Caminos Flamencos starts at 10 p.m. on Dec. 31 downtown in the "Flamenco Room" at 1600 Shattuck. Seating begins at 9 p.m. A tapas & buffet dinner with a la carte Spanish wine bar, traditional Spanish grape & champagne countdown to midnight. Cost: \$65 - \$95 per person; strictly limited table seating by reservation only; call 510-643-0662 or reserve online at www.cafedelapaz.net.

■ Looking for a cheap date? Try the **Dada New Year's Eve Party** with the

Sholgun Players' presentation of Stoppard's "Travesties" on Dec. 31 at the Ashby Ave. Stay after the evening of Dada and modernism. Champagne and music included in price of admission. Wide's "The Improvised" as inspiration in Zurich, 1918, during James Joyce, Tristan Tzara, Lenin were all in town. — through Jan. 16. Admission after show. www.dada.org or call 510-841-6500.

■ **Traveling Jewish Theater** "The Bright River" (a musical) at the Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave. Times are as follows: Friday nights at 8 p.m. on Jan. 7 and 9 p.m. on Jan. 14. Tickets at 3 p.m. on Jan. 7 and written and performed by the Ensemble: Safa Shalita, Lily Ivry - call, & Kid Beyer. — **Reviewed by Jeff Ra. Beyer** presents: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors. Regular ticket holders available for groups of 10 or more and students. Thursday nights are "open can." 415-255-0900 or www.epicarts.org/beyer.

■ **St. Joseph the Worker** presents "First Friday", time of conscience, on the first Friday month of the new year. Upcoming films include "Gandhi", the Promised Land, a historical overview of history, media coverage of history, conflict, playing on Jan. 1, Feb. 4: "pass the hat" to the Committee and Penn Land. — an update on Haiti which is a recent videotape footage. Admission free. Details: 510-482-1092.

■ **Zora Neale Hurston and Waring's** "Key to the City" through Jan. 8 at the Theatre, 2025 Addison St. male blues singer's journey to New York City to her home in Florida. Tickets: 2949 01-888-4877 or 4878.

■ **Bayle Repertory Theater** presents "Peggy Sledge", a series of conversations with eminent theater artists. Jan. 2 at 7 p.m. at 2015 Addison St. as follows: Jan. 14 playwright Kushner & director Tony Award-winning director Leigh Fondakowski; call: 510-647-2949 or www.bayle.org.

■ **Contra Costa Civic Theater**

See CALENDAR, p. 10



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# view

PAGE A1

ment of 114 polled residents said it to stay. The mural is going to be left to the historical society member and culture commissioner Daystar said he's heard no discussion of the mural.

## swim center

After being closed for 18 years, the new El Cerrito Swim Center opened quietly in January. A light drizzle, a few residents could be seen diving in, and wading in the blue water.

When the weather warmed in the city held a "grand opening" for the new facility, which Sandi Potter said was the best El Cerrito gathering she ever seen.

It serves as a high-class community pool for the high school and some of the other residents that swim in it and it's very popular with El Cerrito residents and other folks," Potter said. Open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. and it's a wonderful facility to have in El Cerrito.

## BANY COMMUNITY TELEVISION

On "The Trouble with Lead" — testing lead hazards. And 10:30 p.m. Berkeley Ballet — "The Nutcracker." Filmed by resident Mike Lee. "The Nutcracker" (1998) Compelling, humorous, gripping, sad — the "Nutcracker" List of wildlife documents.

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ing a 2001 California Supreme Court decision requiring approval of the tax by residents. A debate over the tax was waged in the weeks leading up to the election, with mailers, signs and a modestly attended El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce forum. With the tax generating 12 percent of the city's general fund, city officials said city services would suffer if Measure K failed.

The group opposing the tax said it was flawed and that the city had enough money to get by while a reconfigured tax was placed before voters.

## BART parking

Sixteen years after a half-cent sales tax was approved by Contra Costa County voters for transportation-related projects, the city is making progress on seeing a BART parking garage on the southeast corner of El Cerrito Plaza.

It's also seeing resident opposition to the project, which includes an adjacent 97-unit condominium complex and daycare.

Some residents who live around the revitalized plaza shopping center say the project will increase noise and traffic that already plague the area. The project will also increase pollution levels for students at nearby Albany Middle School and Cougar Field, they contend.

The controversy heated up in the fall, when the city released a supplemental environmental impact report that stated that all of the environmental effects from the project are "less than significant," provided mitigation measures are implemented.

That's been little consolation for residents in the ad hoc Plaza Neighbors group, who also question why the project is not being placed on BART property.

Among other things, BART wants the option of building its own "transit-village" of housing and commercial uses on its own property.

"They (BART officials) don't want to take that out of the picture," said Jim Allison, BART's public information officer. "They want to have that option in the future."

Meanwhile, the city risks losing \$6.7 million promised from 1988's Measure C, for a BART parking garage if the project does not move forward.

"If the project doesn't go ahead, the authority would have to decide if another BART parking project, at another BART station makes sense," said Paul Maxwell, deputy director of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

Elements of the project need approval by both the planning commission and the City Council to proceed. It won't go before the planning commission until after Jan. 3, the deadline for submitting comments about the SEIR.

That will make the Measure C garage and housing development not only one of the bigger issues in El Cerrito and Albany in 2004, but in 2005 as well.

## Cellphone antennas

In October, the Albany School District turned down a proposal to build cell phone antennas on top of Albany High School, one day after the City Council approved a 45-day moratorium on approving wireless communication facilities in the city.

For the school district, it was the culmination of several meetings of debate over the antennas and whether the technology is hazardous to people.

Nan Wishner, spokeswoman for celtowerfreealby.org said it may or may not be. But the city, she said, needs to keep the antennas away from homes, daycare centers and schools.

The Albany planning and zoning commission has been working on a wireless communications zoning ordinance that does just that, said Wishner, a technical writer.

The commission looked at the new ordinance on Dec. 14 and will examine it again on Jan. 11, possibly making a recommendation for approval to the Council.

"I think it looks very good, I think they did a good job," Wishner said recently. "It prohibits antennas on schools and in residential districts."

Meanwhile, in December the council extended the wireless communications moratorium to April and upheld an appeal against a cell tower jointly proposed by Metro PCs and Nextel Communications on top of the Jerome Blank

building at 1530 Solano Ave.

## Albany zoning

Residents in the West Albany Neighborhood Association worked for about a year with the planning and zoning commission and City Council to craft new zoning regulations they would accept.

The result? "In terms of parking and height limits, and everything else it's a reasonable choice for Albany," said Adams Street resident Joan Larson, recently. "I think most people feel that way."

The city had been working for years to update its zoning regulations on San Pablo Avenue and parallel side streets Kains Avenue and Adams Street.

That was before residents got wind of it in October 2003 and began lobbying to stop the changes, which were in line with the city's 1997 San Pablo Avenue vision plan to make San Pablo Avenue a more commercially viable highway.

Residents however, feared traffic, pollution and noise problems. They wanted zoning changes in accordance with the city's 1991 general plan — and got it.

In September, the City Council approved high-density residential zoning on some portions of Kains Avenue and Adams Street that back up to San Pablo Avenue. That will prohibit commercial developments from being built over entire blocks.

In addition, said associate planner Billy Gross, building height limits were reduced from 45 feet to 38 feet, with exceptions for cer-

# Calendar

FROM PAGE A6

Agents Agatha Christie's classic mystery "The Mousetrap" at 8 p.m. on Fri-Sat, Jan. 21-Feb. 19, and 2 p.m. on Jan. 30, Feb. 13 at 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito. Admission: \$10-\$15. Details: call 510-524-9132 or go to [www.cccct.org](http://www.cccct.org)

■ Ragged Wing Ensemble presents Jean Claude Van Itallie's "The Serpent" Fri., Sat. at 8 p.m. Jan. 28 - Feb. 19 at Eighth Street Studios, 2525 - 8th St. Tickets: \$10-\$20 sliding scale; call 510-527-8119. Wheelchair accessible. Details: go to [www.raggedwing.org](http://www.raggedwing.org).

■ Aurora Theatre Company presents Conor McPherson's "Dublin Carol" Jan. 28 - March 6 at 2081 Addison St. Shows are Wed.-Sat. 8 p.m., Sun. 2 & 7 p.m. Tickets: \$28-\$45; call 510-843-4822 or go to [www.auroratheatre.org](http://www.auroratheatre.org).

■ Cirque Eloize, Quebec's troupe of acrobats, aerialists, and athletic dancers performs at 2 p.m., 8 p.m. on Jan. 29, and at 3 p.m. on Jan. 30 at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Tickets: \$26-\$48; 510-842-9988 or [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

■ Berkeley Extension's Free Info Sessions are scheduled as follows: Computer Information Systems at 6 - 8 p.m. on Jan. 4 at 1995 University Ave., Room 202. This program combines theory and practice to provide the skills and knowledge to advance in or enter the IT field. (EDP 126185). — Business Intelligence & Data Warehousing at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 5 at Knightsbridge Solutions, Nextel Bldg., 475 14th St.

6th floor, Oakland. Learn how to design, develop and implement a data warehouse and use it effectively. (EDP 126649). Call 510-642-4111 to reserve a seat. [unex.berkeley.edu](http://unex.berkeley.edu) for details.

■ Ecology Center presents "Arctic Quest: Journey through a Threatened Wilderness" at 7 - 9 p.m. on Jan. 6 at 2530 San Pablo Ave. Join author Chad Kister for a slideshow presentation of his journey by foot and trail through Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Arctic Refuge is the last undeveloped section of Alaska's Arctic coast line, and is a critical breeding ground for many animals. This land is threatened by the president's plan to open the coastal plain to oil development. If pursued, oil development would provide less than a 6 month supply of oil for the United States and would destroy the refuge. Come find out about the work of the Arctic Refuge Defense Campaign and what you can do to help protect this unique ecosystem. Free. [www.ecology-center.org](http://www.ecology-center.org) or call 510-548-2220 x233.

■ La Pena Cultural Center presents drumming classes with master drummer & oud player Mohsen on Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Jan. 8-March 12 at 3105 Shattuck Ave. For ages 11+. For fee, info call Mohsen at 415-317-2927.

See REVIEW, Page A8

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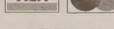
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## Murders

FROM PAGE A1

The group ran drugs in railroad towns across the West, using multiple identifications, sometimes stolen from their murder victims, to collect food stamps, welfare and Supplemental Security Income at different locations. They lived in "jungles," homeless camps along the tracks, including the one in Albany, Palmini said.

He and other law enforcement officials say group members, primarily Silveria, are responsible for as many as 100 murders along the railroad tracks, including hobos thrown off trains or "executed ... with a machete, ax or sharp buck knife" and left on tracks at night to be run over by oncoming trains.

Many of the killings were classified as suicides or accidents. Few ever were registered outside the jurisdictions where they occurred.

So Palmini was unaware that in August 1994 a rail rider named

Michael Garfinkle was found with his skull bashed in along the railroad tracks in Emeryville.

"All the cops that worked these homicides had no idea the FTRA existed," Palmini said.

Railroad police knew of the FTRA but did not share information with municipal departments, Palmini said.

Palmini says the tens of thousands of miles of unprotected railroad tracks crisscrossing the country raise a homeland security issue.

"In spite of tightened security after 9/11, seasoned rail riders like Robert Silveria still have the know-how to circumvent the authorities and move around freely," Palmini writes. "They also know how to derail trains."

He believes someone in the FTRA is responsible for a 1995 Amtrak derailment in Arizona that resulted in a death.

Additionally, there are buried pipelines and cables running along rights-of-way. Next to the Union Pacific tracks in Albany are Kinder Morgan and Santa Fe Pacific petroleum pipelines and

MCI and Qwest fiber optic cables.

John Bromley, a Union Pacific spokesman in Nebraska, agreed many miles of tracks are "pretty accessible."

However, Bromley said, "Nobody's going to hijack a train and run it into a building. The potential for terrorism on railroads is pretty small."

"Since 9/11, we've instructed our employees to be our eyes and ears," Bromley continued. "They are directed to report anything suspicious, and they've been doing a pretty thorough job of it."

Bromley said there is no such thing as an organized group of railroad killers.

"We have been over the years approached by the news media and some retired police officers about the so-called FTRA and a series of murders," Bromley said. "It's pretty much an urban myth."

Myth or not, Silveria told Palmini he committed at least one murder in each of 38 states. He confessed to six in California, including McLean's and Garfinkle's, and six in Oregon. He was

convicted of murder in Oregon, Kansas and Florida but has never gone to trial in California, Palmini said.

Silveria was arrested without incident March 2, 1996, by a Roseville railroad police officer. Silveria, who was carrying a gun he had stolen from a victim, briefly thought of killing the officer, but something stopped him, Palmini writes. "It was God," Silveria would later tell me.

Palmini interviewed him at the Placer County jail in Auburn, where he readily confessed in great detail to killing McLean.

The two found a common bond when Silveria, noting Palmini's long sideburns, asked, "Are you that Elvis cop?"

The next day, Silveria could not stop talking.

"He wanted to clear the slate with God for the old Robert Silveria," Palmini says. "He wanted to make peace with God and peace with himself."

Reach Tom Lochner at 510-262-2760 or [tlochner@cctimes.com](mailto:tlochner@cctimes.com).

## Soccer

FROM PAGE A1

tos team official with the league.

"They had to blame somebody," he said.

Alvarez, a Berkeley resident, said he was at the field the day of the attack but did not see who did it and still does not know the attacker's identity.

In court, Alvarez initially told Judge Phillip Tauber he wished to proceed without an attorney.

"What do I need an attorney for?" he asked through the translator.

Tauber explained that Alvarez could face a maximum of two years in jail, prompting Alvarez' protestation that he is "not the person who did this."

"When do I bring my witnesses?" he asked.

As Tauber contemplated a new court date, Alvarez asked to speak to the district attorney to resolve the matter.

"If I'm here right now, why do I have to come back again?" Alvarez said. "Why can't we take

care of it right now?

Eventually, Alvarez would hire an attorney to set a plea hearing.

The judge denied Creighton to set bail, allowing Alvarez to remain on his own recognizance.

dering him to remain in custody. Police Department booking and fingerprinting.

League released Jerry Nelson said acknowledged receiving notices regarding Greenlee that he mailed to him.

"I'm not sure anyone's trying to do Nelson said."

Asked if the club may be someone like Alvarez and if the club believes is Alvarez someone else, Nelson not out of the question.

Reach Tom Lochner at 510-262-2760 or [tlochner@cctimes.com](mailto:tlochner@cctimes.com).

## Review

FROM PAGE A7

tain architectural features. "I was really pleased at how it ended up," Kains Avenue resident Dave Miller said recently. "But I was disappointed at how long it took to get there. I really felt a lot of staff resources were wasted in the last few years in pursuing the San Pablo Vision Plan, that wasn't properly vetted with the community."

### Election 2004

The Nov. 2 election, with six candidates running for three open Albany City Council seats, was the most contentious election some long-time residents said they had seen in years.

Candidates Robert Lieber and Brian Parker criticized the sitting council for spending tax money to expand the city's police and fire buildings. More importantly, they said the council needed to take a stand on protecting the waterfront from development.

Parker and Lieber filed a complaint with the California Fair Political Practices Commission, alleging that a leaflet criticizing the two was crafted by residents as a front for Alan Riffer and Jewel Okawachi's campaigns.

In the end, Parker, a former city planner, was unable to get enough votes. Okawachi was returned to

the council, with newcomers Farid Javandel and Lieber.

Parker could not be reached for comment, though Lieber preferred to look forward, having appointed Parker to the parks and recreation commission as one of his first actions on the council.

"It was a success and I think everyone that participated had a good experience even though there were some issues," Lieber said. "And I think people addressed those issues and that's what you're supposed to do in an election."

### Measure F

In 2002, when the Albany City Council placed Measure F, a \$14.5 million bond measure on the November ballot, it promised that some of the money would go toward seismically upgrading the police and fire buildings for emergency purposes.

Did that mean the police and fire buildings would be expanded? This year the council thought so, because in July it allocated an additional \$2 million for an expansion, plus renovations inside City Hall, bringing the total cost of the work on the police and fire buildings and City Hall to \$4.5 million.

That original proposal submitted to the council by city staff was for a City Hall expansion as well, at a cost of \$6.5 million. That was before members of the park and recreation commission complained that not enough

money was being allocated for their programs.

"I think generally the commission felt good that we were heard and some changes were made," former park and recreation commissioner Bart Grossman said recently.

Several residents told the council that it should ask voters to approve another bond measure to pay for a comprehensive city hall and police and fire expansion and seismic upgrade.

The council, however, believed it had achieved consensus and approved the allocation at a July meeting. That included \$3.7 million for city park and recreation projects, \$2 million on traffic safety improvements and \$2 million on street pavement upgrades and \$2 million for a contingency fund.

### Park plan

In October, after 17 public meetings, the Albany City Council approved a parks masterplan, providing a roadmap to improve city parks and recreation programs.

The document was lauded for incorporating a great amount of public input.

"There was a lot of consensus achieved over a long period of time with lots of input," said then-park and recreation commissioner Bart Grossman. "A lot of people have a common understanding now of

what we have to do and that's very helpful."

The plan showed that the city would have the money to pay for \$10 million worth of improvements and projects, but there would also be a \$2.1 million shortfall.

Taxes or fees for parks and park maintenance would be considered if funding is not found to make up the shortfall, according to the report.

One project the city did have the money for was for completion of the first phase of improvements at Memorial Park.

The park reopened this year and the city celebrated renovations with a ceremony at its July 4 festivities. The park received a new playground, turf and drainage.

### Kensington concerts

Kensington concert promoter Danny Scher held two large-scale fund-raising concerts at an outdoor amphitheater at his Coventry Road home, earning fines from the county and the ire of some Kensington residents.

In September, Bonnie Raitt and Taj Mahal performed at his home,

an event that drew more than 250 people and raised more than \$150,000 for MoveOnPac, a committee supporting presidential candidate John Kerry.

The event brought out local celebrities, as well as angry neighbors passing out fliers to dapper attendees.

The concerts have been a controversy in Kensington for several years, said Toni Folger-Brown and her husband, Tim Hoyer, who live across the street from Scher's home.

"It's just one of those nightmares people have," said Hoyer, "to have a rock impresario that sets up in your neighborhood and basically wants to have his own concert venue."

In addition to the Bonnie Raitt event, Scher also held a Berkeley Jazz School benefit in July, Folger-Brown said.

The county has fined Scher a

total of \$800 for the

supported by residents, appeal of the fines and before the county assessor on Monday.

Carlos Baldonado, including the county's inspection department.

Reach Alan Lopez at 3578 or e-mail [alopez@cctimes.com](mailto:alopez@cctimes.com).

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## Outlook 2005: Moderation Is key

As the year rapidly winds to a close, investors need to take time to evaluate which direction their investments are heading and prepare themselves for the road ahead.

In the coming year income investors should consider adding bonds with shorter maturities and dividend-paying stocks to their

portfolios, while equity investors may want to consider healthcare consumer companies. Let's take a look at some of the major factors influencing the economic and market outlook for 2005.

**Income investors may have a challenging time:** Interest rates are expected to rise further in the coming year, given the continued strength of the U.S. economy and the need to contain inflationary pressures. Therefore, fixed income investors may struggle to achieve meaningful return once inflation is factored in.

With 10-year Treasury notes now yielding an annual return of just over 4 percent, and CPI averaging 2.4 percent, the annual real return for an income investor is a negative 1.8 percent, if inflation does change.

Assuming inflation stays low, that percent is nowhere near the real return that income investors have enjoyed during the last two decades. If inflation edges up — even

slightly — that return will vanish, and bond prices will adjust downward as well.

As a result, income investors should consider adding bonds with shorter maturities and dividend-paying equities to their portfolio. That is because recently — for only the second time in 40 years — dividend

As a result of this slowdown, the economy will likely establish a more sustainable pattern of moderate growth combined with low inflation, which is good news for U.S. consumers and businesses. However, the "boom" could turn to a "bust" if the costs of goods and services continue to rise.

yields on stocks have been higher than money market yields. In addition, during these years, stocks in the S&P 500 have increased their dividends by more than 5 percent annually. That means investors can gain a measure of protection in a rising rate environment because of dividend growth prospects.

It is important to keep in mind that stocks do carry more risk than bonds, and that past performance is no guarantee of what will happen in the future. As a result, you should diversify your holdings by looking for quality issues with dividend growth potential, rather than reaching for stocks with the highest available dividend yield.

**The international economy will slow:** The world economic boom

and surging commodity prices did help push inflation marginally higher during 2004. The global economy literally moved from a "bust" to a "boom" over the last 18 months. However, growth is expected to slow, with commodity prices — including oil — stabilizing or declining in the coming year.

As a result of this slowdown, the economy will likely establish a more sustainable pattern of moderate growth combined with low inflation, which is good news for U.S. consumers and businesses. However, the "boom" could turn to a "bust" if the costs of goods and services continue to rise because commodity prices move even higher.

There are special risks associated with international investments, including currency risks, political, social and economic risks.

**Stocks should see better returns:** As far as the stock market is concerned, the next two years should see periods of more attractive returns as investors add "quality" stocks to their equity portfolios, versus more speculative concerns, now that the economy is improving.

See OUTLOOK, Page B2



LEILA GOUGH  
Money Matters

## Real Estate Spotlight:

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**THE NAPA VALLEY IS ONE OF THE TRUE TREASURES** of Northern California. Beloved for its superb wine production, incomparable beauty and unique lifestyle, visitors from all over the world wend their way to the area year-round. Owning residential country property, much less a little farm, in the valley is another matter, however. The regulations that make the open spaces of the agricultural district of the Valley so attractive, also severely restrict the number of homes that can be built there. Finding a home on a smaller vineyard property or farm that is easily accessible from the Bay Area is extremely rare. This five-acre property is on the valley floor along the Silverado Trail among world-class wineries. It has spectacular views and includes a comfortable three-bedroom, two-bath ranch style home with stone fireplace; a 3.3-acre, five-year-old vineyard planted in Merlot grapes (negotiable lease in place); in-ground pool, guesthouse and an acre or more of paddocks, gardens, fruit and olive trees. 4230 Silverado Trail is about one hour from the Bay Area, about two miles north of Napa and minutes from the Napa Airport.

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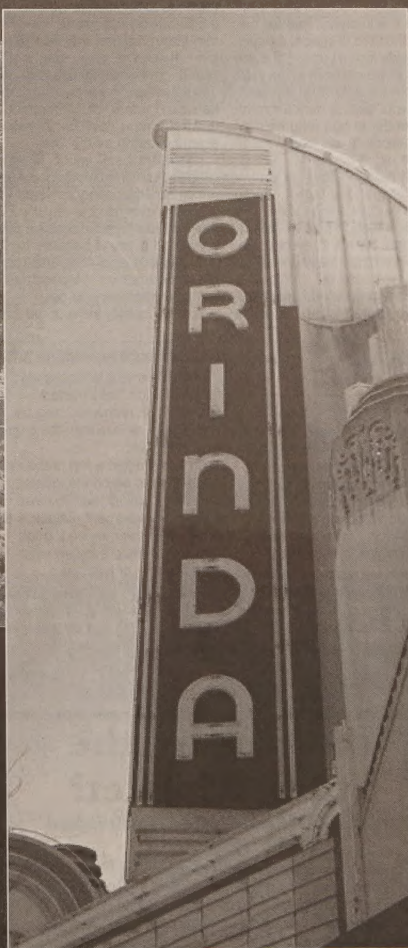


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# Historic preservation: A status report

As another year draws to a close, it seems like an appropriate time to offer a few personal observations on where the historic preservation movement stands today. Four years into the New Millennium, let us take stock of the role, and the impact, of historic preservation in Northern California.

First, let's define what historic preservation is. The Oxford American Dictionary defines preservation as "preserving, or being preserved," and it defines preserve as "to keep safe, to keep in an unchanged condition."

There was a time when historic preservationists focused only on trying to keep historic buildings in "an unchanged state."

Developers, city planners, and much of the media and most of the general public viewed preservationists as obstructionists determined to stand in the way of any progress. Or, they were seen as unrealistic romantics, trying to turn back the hands of time to a simpler, quieter, more elegant time.

Not any more. Today's historic preservationists are much more flexible, practical, and creative in proposing solutions for saving historic buildings from the wrecking ball. The trend toward more and more adaptive reuse projects, where old buildings are now being preserved while making them economically viable by adapting them to modern uses, is proof of this fact.

An excellent example of a recent adaptive reuse project in the East Bay is the old Charles S. Greene Library, at the southwest corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 14th Street in Oakland.

The prominent local firm of Bliss and Faville designed the building in 1899. It was opened to the public in 1902. This building is a superb example of the neoclassical Beaux Arts style, with symbolic bas-relief decorations of open books above its front door.

(See accompanying story and photo on this page)

The 1899 Loma Prieta Earthquake badly damaged the Greene Library was badly damaged. The city declared it unsafe for public use.

It sat empty for nearly a decade, while various proposals were discussed for saving it by earthquake retrofitting the structure as part of an adaptive reuse project.

Finally a few years ago, the Oakland City Planning Commission gave permission for the Greene Library to be used as a new library and museum of African American history. The exterior was left untouched, and the interior had only minor changes to adapt it to use as a modern library with high tech research capacity. Today, it stands as a testament to intelligent, well-thought-out historic preservation methods.

Of course, the Bay Area has had its share of preservation failures in recent years as well. Perhaps the most discouraging example is the fate of the old De Young Museum Building in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, which the eccentric Bay Area architect Louis Christian Mullgardt designed for the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exhibition. The building was slightly damaged by the Loma Prieta Earthquake slightly damaged the building, but not seriously enough for the city to close it to the public. However, a number of board members of the Museum of Fine Arts took the opportunity to push for the building's demolition and replacement with a modern structure, even though it would have been less expensive to renovate and retrofit the existing museum.

The voters of San Francisco were twice asked to approve bond measures to help fund this rebuilding project, and they voted them down soundly both times. Nevertheless, the administration of Mayor Willie Brown was determined to push ahead with this project, despite the public's opposition. They managed to raise the necessary funds from private donations, and some federal funding.

After a long, passionate fight put up by both preservationists and many prominent architects in San Francisco, the old De Young was finally demolished about a year or so ago. The new museum complex that is being constructed in Golden Gate Park bears no aesthetic relation to its surroundings, historic or natural. It is so out of place and various critics have described the complex as a series of parallel shoe boxes, a 1950s car dealership plopped down in a city park, and a gigantic Costco outlet run amok.

But there are some hopeful signs on the horizon for historic preservation in Northern California.



MARK WILSON  
Owning A Piece of History

An excellent example of a recent adaptive reuse project in the East Bay is the old Charles S. Greene Library, at the southwest corner of Martin Luther King Jr. Way and 14th Street in Oakland. The prominent local firm of Bliss and Faville designed the building in 1899.

One of the more recent victories was the decision by the U.S. Interior Department to provide matching funds for the State Parks and Recreation project to restore all of California's Franciscan Missions.

These 21 venerable buildings were built between 1769 and 1831, and they are in varying state of deferred maintenance.

The bill to allow for federal funding for this project was supported by many Republican and Democratic lawmakers, including both senators Boxer and Feinstein, despite some opposition from groups who opposed it on the ground that federal funding for such a project violated the separation of church and state.

So common sense can still prevail, and allow some victories for the preservation of our irreplaceable architectural heritage.

Mark A. Wilson can be reached at 510-273-9393 or by e-mail at MarkW@aol.com. Visit his Web site, www.Wildcatt.com, click on "Pieces of History."



OAKLAND'S CHARLES F. GREENE LIBRARY is a superb example of the neoclassical Beaux Arts style, with symbolic bas-relief decorations of open books above its front door.

## The Charles S. Greene Library transforms

### A lesson in historic preservation

OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Next door to the First Unitarian Church on 14th Street below Martin Luther King Jr. Way sits the Charles S. Greene Library, so named after the Oakland Public Library director responsible for this former main library's construction between December 1899 and June 1902.

Standing several stories high, this unreinforced masonry building, was damaged during the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989. It stood covered with public notices, a neglected garden overran its grounds. Fuchsias and dandelions competed with crab grass and trash, while naked flag poles stood at attention near the curb.

The names Home, Dante, Shakespeare, Milton, Lowell, Froebel, the subject headings Discourse, History, Science, Philosophy, Ethics, Prose, Literature - Poetry, and the words Oakland Free Library, trim the upper and lower frieze between tall windows and welcoming doors were boarded up and marked with foreboding "No Trespassing" signs.

Pedestrians walked by and commuters who caught city buses were oblivious to the history and

magnificent architectural and artistic delights that lie behind such an unkempt facade. How humble this California State Historical Monument, a Carnegie Library no less, has become, over the last 20 years.

The Greene Library, the former Main Library, is a distinguished work in the American Beaux-Arts style, probably the "only surviving masonry example of pure Italian Renaissance architecture."

The interior design features murals of San Francisco artist Marion Holden (later Mrs. Pope) on the main staircase and by the prominent California artist, Arthur Mathews, on the east wall of the upstairs delivery room. The murals are titled "Child Learning To Read at the Mother's Knee," "Man Sowing the Grain," "The Family with the Loaf of Bread," and in the reference room, "Peace and War."

The African American Museum and Library of Oakland or AAMLO now resides at the Greene Library. The AAMLO is the newest "branch" of the Oakland Library. It's not a traditional library, with books that you check out. It's also more than a museum, with only exhibitions.

I myself have run across a number of people who wonder what AAMLO is, hopefully this article will explain what it is and spark your interest to visit.

The African American Museum and Library of Oakland is a new institution with an emphasis on the African American community. Like the History Room of the Oakland Public Library, AAMLO has exhibitions and programs that are to reach and educate the community.

The African American Museum and Library of Oakland is a new institution with an emphasis on the African American community. Like the History Room of the Oakland Public Library, AAMLO has exhibitions and programs that are to reach and educate the community.

Finally, AAMLO is a new institution with an emphasis on the African American community. Like the History Room of the Oakland Public Library, AAMLO has exhibitions and programs that are to reach and educate the community.

# It was a dark and stormy morning

Return to December 2003, Number 448 in a series of true experiences in real estate

About eight in the morning on New Year's Day, the lights went out. I was drinking coffee and reading the newspaper and suddenly, no light. As she always is, Anet was prepared, with candles and working flashlights. She laid a fat flashlight on the kitchen table for me, and I continued to read the paper.

The kids weren't up yet, the rain was loud, and it started to get cold. Even with the light from the flashlight, it was getting dark for reading. I wondered how long we'd be without electricity and what we'd do while we didn't have any.

I had planned to work on the computer that day but of course couldn't. And watching TV was out. It would be a good time to walk on the treadmill but no, it's electric, too.

We haven't had many power outages at my house but I remember the last one a couple of years ago caused by a tree falling just a few

houses away. That time was actually kind of fun. It was evening and we were all watching TV, the kids in their rooms. Through the sudden darkness, they showed up in the living room asking what had happened, and we all went outside to see.

All the houses were dark and so were the street lights. Neighbors gathered to talk. Before we'd slowly made our way to see it, we were told about the tree that had fallen over. It landed on a neighbor's brand new car. He didn't know about it yet, someone said, because he wasn't home. Of all the things the tree might have hit, it was a shame it had to be that car.

We went back inside to light candles in different rooms and Anet remembered a battery powered TV she has, never used, a very tiny TV. She rooted around in a closet and unearthed it, found batteries for it, and the kids and Anet and I sat close together on the couch and watched whatever was on.

But we quickly were bored and

The kids weren't up yet, the rain was loud, and it started to get cold. Even with the light from the flashlight, it was getting dark for reading. I wondered how long we'd be without electricity and what we'd do while we didn't have any.

turned to the street again where, by now, a city crew was sawing the fallen tree into large pieces, some neighbors were still out chatting, and a PG&E man was climbing a pole. We heard that we might have power in the next hour or so.

We ran into the house to get a candy bar gift for the pole climber. We thought he might need it for extra energy. Then we talked about all the things we can't do when there is no electricity.

And now it was true again. I could take a shower, I thought, and get warmer. But it's dark in the shower. I could do a jigsaw puzzle

- that would be fun - but it would be a challenge by flashlight. I got out some candles and built a fire in the fireplace. That was cozy. And I put a teakettle on the stove (fortunately, it's gas) for cocoa or tea.

And then I wondered, where are the grownups?

Has this ever happened to you? I am a grownup, have had my own house for many a year, have been the one responsible for roof leaks, plumbing clogs, warm food, clean floors, and yet, here I was yearning for the grownups, my parents or someone to take care of things. To take care of me.



TARPOFF AND TALBERT  
True Experiences

The rain continued to pour down. It was dark and getting colder in the house and I wanted someone to fix it, to restore my life to what it had been shortly before, with all modern conveniences, right away.

I've had this feeling before when things went wrong. Like the time Anet and I went to our office and found it under water. A pipe had burst, we discovered later, and a flood was all over the floor. Lots of boxes of paper and a rug and its pad were soaked.

I stood inside the door, my feet getting wet, looking at the volume of water and wondered, where are the grownups? Where are the people who have experienced this sort of thing before and know what to do?

See TARPOFF, Page B3

## Outlook

FROM PAGE B1

While stocks paused a bit during 2004 due to concerns about interest rate increases, terrorism, the American elections, and the war in Iraq, it is not unusual for them to do so during an economic recovery once the Federal Reserve begins to raise rates.

Stock investors should take comfort in the fact that equities tend to perform best during periods of moderate earnings growth and modest inflation, and that is

what appears to lie ahead for 2005.

An investment in stocks will fluctuate such that investors' shares when redeemed may be worth more or less than the original investment.

These are just a few of the major themes to be on the lookout for in the coming year. To make sure your investment outlook is a good one, now may be a good time to schedule a review with your financial consultant.

Lella Gough is an Associate Vice President with A. G. Edwards in Oakland. She can be reached at 510-452-8060.

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VIEWPOINT REAL ESTATE



Vickie Robinson and Alan Gough

HOW APPRAISERS CALCULATE HOME'S VALUE

Before your mortgage application is approved, the lender will order a professional appraisal of the home to ensure that the agreed-upon price is in line with the current value of the home. The appraiser's fee will be the complexity of the appraisal and the time required to complete it.

A professional appraiser will choose the appraisal method that is applicable to the particular property being appraised. One technique is to look at comparable homes in the area that have sold for the same price within the last six months. The price of each comparable home is adjusted to reflect differences between the home being appraised and the comparable homes. It is more complicated than it sounds, but the appraiser will arrive at the appraised value of your home is located in a hot area or a diverse neighborhood. The appraised value will be very close to the sales price. If the appraisal comes in low, the Realtor may be able to provide the appraiser with additional information on the sales that will result in a higher valuation of the home.

Vickie Robinson and Alan Gough are Bay Area real estate professionals and both are now producers of Prudential California Real Estate For professional assistance in all aspects of buying or selling residential real estate, call us at 510-464-1207.



WEEKLY SALES

**AMADEO**  
 1933 Amber Isle - \$669,000  
 1933 Bonister Ct - \$628,000  
 1933 Benedict Ct - \$579,000  
 1933 Calhoun St - \$480,000  
 1933 Chipman St - \$745,500  
 1933 Chipman St - \$726,500  
 1933 Clinton Av - \$890,000  
 1933 Eagle Av - \$900,000  
 1933 Harvard Dr - \$625,000  
 1933 Independence - \$700,000  
 1933 Ironwood Rd - \$579,000  
 1933 Korman Pky - \$938,000  
 1933 Linda Vista - \$485,000  
 1933 Moss Pt - \$926,000  
 1933 Otis Dr - \$485,000  
 1933 Otis Dr - \$565,000  
 1933 Santa Clara - \$507,000  
 1933 Santa Clara - \$693,000  
 1933 Shell Gate Rd - \$448,000  
 1933 Sherman St - \$560,000  
 1933 Taylor Av - \$593,000  
 1933 Waterfall Isle - \$400,000  
 1933 Weber St - \$900,000  
 1933 Webster C310 - \$325,000

**ADAMS**  
 1933 Adams St - \$493,500  
 1933 Neilson St - \$678,000  
 1933 Pierce 109 - \$360,000  
 1933 Pierce 521 - \$360,000  
 1933 Pierce 638E - \$282,000  
 1933 Pomona Av - \$561,000

**ADAMS**  
 1933 7th St - \$530,000  
 1933 8th St - \$535,000  
 1933 Allston Wy - \$725,000  
 1933 Berkeley Wy - \$758,000  
 1933 Byron St - \$775,000  
 1933 Carleton St - \$895,000  
 1933 Colusa Av - \$824,000  
 1933 Contra Costa - \$691,000  
 1933 Cornell Av - \$439,000  
 1933 Craigmont - \$2,300,000  
 1933 Curtis St - \$526,000  
 1933 Evelyn Av - \$480,000  
 1933 Greenwood - \$1,200,000  
 1933 Hearst Av - \$420,000  
 1933 Jaynes St - \$915,000  
 1933 Kains Av - \$510,000  
 1933 Keith Av - \$480,000  
 1933 Keith Av - \$550,000  
 1933 Michigan - \$925,000  
 1933 Neilson St - \$625,000  
 1933 Pardee St - \$575,000  
 1933 Park St - \$550,000  
 1933 Prince St - \$430,000  
 1933 Sacramento - \$750,000  
 1933 San Mateo Rd - \$1,400,000  
 1933 Tacoma Av - \$770,000  
 1933 Victoria St - \$616,000

**ADAMS**  
 1933 Burns Ct - \$493,000  
 1933 Clayton Av - \$530,000  
 1933 Craft Av - \$801,000  
 1933 Del Monte - \$650,000  
 1933 Everett St - \$433,000  
 1933 Everett St - \$487,000  
 1933 Richmond - \$360,000  
 1933 Victoria St - \$642,500

**ADAMS**  
 1933 Del Valle Cr - \$290,000  
 1933 Joan Vista St - \$285,000  
 1933 Joan Vista St - \$309,000  
 1933 Ridgeview B11 - \$253,000  
 1933 Swood Forest - \$510,000

**ADAMS**  
 1933 Admiral F470 - \$250,000  
 1933 Christie 2205 - \$380,000  
 1933 Dore B211 - \$380,000  
 1933 Dore C453 - \$500,000  
 1933 Doyle 157 - \$680,000  
 1933 Doyle - \$630,000  
 1933 Emery Bay - \$320,000  
 1933 Loop 22 - \$470,000  
 1933 Loop 22 - \$501,500  
 1933 Loop - \$470,000

**ADAMS**  
 1933 Columbia - \$750,000  
 1933 Eureka Av - \$510,000  
 1933 Lenox Rd - \$575,000  
 1933 Sunset Dr - \$450,000  
 1933 Yale Av - \$730,000  
 1933 York Av - \$1,020,000

**ADAMS**  
 1933 100th Av - \$350,000  
 1933 103rd Av - \$425,000  
 1933 103rd Av - \$340,000

1907 105th Av - \$328,000  
 2318 106th Av - \$332,000  
 2355 106th Av - \$246,000  
 555 10th St 409 - \$411,000  
 1175 12th St - \$600,000  
 1708 18th Av - \$445,000  
 2722 19th Av - \$490,000  
 610 21st St - \$205,000  
 2942 23rd Av - \$610,000  
 729 32nd St - \$399,000  
 3029 35th Av - \$520,000  
 2868 38th Av 2 - \$175,000  
 945 39th Av - \$395,000  
 373 40th St 5 - \$375,000  
 2211 42nd Av - \$430,000  
 992 43rd St - \$322,500  
 861 55th St - \$430,000  
 657 57th St - \$606,000  
 560 61st St - \$565,000  
 1386 62nd Av - \$320,000  
 2608 64th Av - \$340,000  
 3535 68th Av - \$493,000  
 1680 70th Av - \$320,000  
 1827 70th Av - \$270,000  
 1062 73rd Av - \$425,000  
 2303 73rd Av - \$490,000  
 2914 73rd Av - \$363,000  
 2631 74th Av - \$372,000  
 1712 79th Av - \$325,000  
 2738 79th Av - \$267,000  
 1241 81st Av - \$365,000  
 2929 82nd Av - \$365,000  
 1056 83rd Av - \$300,000  
 1301 83rd Av - \$415,000  
 2532 83rd Av - \$355,000  
 1252 84th Av - \$430,000  
 1475 87th Av - \$325,000  
 1169 89th Av - \$330,000  
 1735 8th St - \$410,000  
 2355 90th Av - \$366,000  
 1920 92nd Av - \$380,000  
 2006 92nd Av - \$340,000  
 1200 94th Av - \$240,000  
 1308 94th Av - \$378,000  
 1302 95th Av - \$325,000  
 1850 9th Av - \$530,000  
 2842 Abbey St - \$535,000  
 10636 Acalanes - \$343,000  
 3116 Adeline 102 - \$399,000  
 3116 Adeline 108 - \$359,000  
 1103 Adeline - \$500,000  
 2702 Adeline S - \$260,000  
 4410 Arcadia Av - \$772,000  
 6788 Armour Dr - \$895,000  
 5736 Ayala St - \$796,000  
 389 Belmont 405 - \$390,000  
 2876 Birdsall Av - \$435,500  
 6879 Bristol Dr - \$799,000  
 5335 B'way Tr 203 - \$340,000  
 12025 B'way Tr - \$761,500  
 5616 Broadway - \$550,000  
 6164 Bullard Dr - \$839,000  
 10332 Byron Av - \$283,500  
 220 Caldecott 108 - \$460,000  
 180 Caldecott 110 - \$460,000  
 260 Caldecott 116 - \$385,000  
 23 Captains Cv - \$855,000  
 5972 Chaboly Tr - \$723,000  
 6449 Chabot Rd - \$880,000  
 335 Channel 140 - \$569,500  
 331 Channel - \$516,000  
 5830 Clover Dr - \$825,000  
 6456 Colton Bl - \$710,000  
 4637 Congress Av - \$590,000  
 460 Crescent St - \$300,000  
 9625 D St - \$400,000  
 358 Darien Av - \$300,000  
 2339 Dashwood - \$340,000  
 5611 Denton Pl - \$1,405,000  
 1833 Drake Dr - \$852,500  
 5630 East 17th St - \$337,000  
 1024 East 18th St - \$375,000  
 2800 East 21st St - \$2,475,000  
 1377 East 27th St - \$350,000  
 1396 East 28th St - \$330,000  
 3015 East 29th St - \$450,000  
 619 El Dorado Av - \$762,000  
 6715 Elverton Dr - \$950,000  
 9541 Empire Rd - \$365,000  
 3201 Filbert St - \$430,000  
 3733 Fresno St - \$355,000  
 5634 Glenbrook Dr - \$903,000  
 9501 Granada Av - \$510,000  
 664 Haddon Rd - \$1,250,000  
 5117 Harbord Dr - \$765,000  
 5735 Harmon Av - \$360,000  
 3750 Harrison 306 - \$182,000  
 3033 Harrison - \$660,000  
 2521 Havenscourt - \$286,000  
 2921 Havenscourt - \$320,000  
 2123 High St - \$350,000  
 8014 Hillside St - \$335,000  
 4099 Howe St 102 - \$385,000  
 321 Hudson St - \$700,000  
 551 Jean St 313 - \$350,000  
 3066 Kansas St - \$515,000  
 1830 Lakeshore 205 - \$415,000  
 1 Lakeside Dr 2002 - \$804,000

See SALES, Page B4

# The crystal ball: Realtor association presidents prognosticate on housing market

We can try to predict, project, prognosticate, prophesy, foretell or forecast. But the real estate market is cyclical. It's like the weather. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's bad. We can use statistics and look at the past. But, just like the weather, sometimes we are surprised.

2004 began with an increase in home sales of almost 5 percent compared with the same time last year. The California Association of Realtors reported that the median price of an existing, single family, detached home in our state increased in January by over 20 percent.

This set a new record. In 2004, we experienced the lowest inventory seen in three years and a slow but definite improvement in the economy. The inventory of homes affected availability and affordability. By March some areas were receiving multiple offers.

The unemployment rate plunged to 5.5 percent. As the economy re-

bounded, home mortgage rates, even with a slight increase remained historically low. Many investors chose real property as their investment in the future.

## The envelope, please

As this column prints and the year 2004 ends, I offer to you some comments and forecasts from our 2004 real estate organization presidents.

**Berkeley Association of Realtors 2005 President Lois Kadosh:** "I never give predictions. In regard to making a prediction for the housing market for 2005, if I only had a crystal ball."

**Oakland Association of Realtors 2005 President Lois Harris:** "I predict that 2005 will be another excellent year for real estate. Expect more of the same - good rates and good sales. Buyers still want to be in California."

**Alameda Association of Realtors 2005 President Eileen Walker:** "Here's my forecast for

the 2005 real estate market. We see statewide continuous demand for property. More importantly, we do not see any slow up."

**Associated Real Property Brokers 2005-06 President DeAnna Baldridge:** "I am quite optimistic about the 2005 real estate market. We can expect continued increases in the interest rate but those increases will not adversely affect the economy."

Rates will remain relatively low by comparison and 2005 will be favorable for homeownership. Additionally, with the recent announcement of expected job growth in the Bay Area and the state, real estate professionals can be excited about 2005."

According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR) home sales are expected to be the second highest on record for 2005. The national price of existing homes is expected to rise almost 8 percent. NAR predicts a slow rise in 30-year



**BOBBIE REID**  
Credit Worthy

fixed-rate mortgages, with an average of 6.4 percent.

With many buyers finding their homes, due to low interest rates in 2004, sales may level out.

Money Magazine also predicts a better year for 2005. Their indicators look for a slight rise in interest rates during the continued recovery. But they forecast a lowering for inflation or prices and the unemployment rate. That's all good news.

And what is my prediction? Well, call me a Pollyanna, if you will, but I'm looking forward to another great year. Here's wishing good health and prosperity to all of you, as we begin another new year. Happy 2005!

For information or comments e-mail me at [bobbierid@mind-spring.com](mailto:bobbierid@mind-spring.com).

# The art of backup offers for a home sale

■ Sellers aren't always advised to accept the second bid

INMAN NEWS

It's no fun to be told that you are second best. But in some situations, being in second position can pay off.

For example, you could bid on a house and lose out to another buyer who offered a higher price or better terms. If you accept a counteroffer from the seller for first backup position, and the first buyer withdraws, you could end up being the lucky buyer after all.

This happens fairly often, particularly in hot real estate markets when buyers make hasty decisions under the pressure of a multiple-offer bidding contest.

Some backup buyers put themselves through an emotional wringer while they wait to find out if the first deal falls. If you do accept backup position, try to detach yourself from the process and adopt a philosophical attitude. If it's meant to be, it will happen.

**HOUSE HUNTING TIP:** Don't sit back and wait until the first deal either fails or closes. You could lose precious time by doing so. You should continue to look at

Buyers who know that there is another buyer waiting patiently for the deal to fall apart tend to ask for fewer seller concessions than they would if there wasn't a backup offer. For this reason, sellers frequently accept a lower price from a backup buyer than they otherwise would.

any new listings that might work for you.

Make sure that your backup contract includes a provision that allows you to continue to look for a home to buy. The provision should enable you to withdraw from the backup contract at any time, as long as it's before you're notified that your offer has been elevated to primary position.

Sellers like backup offers because they tend to reinforce the primary buyer's resolve to close the sale. For instance, issues almost always come up during the buyer's inspections.

Buyers who know that there is another buyer waiting patiently for the deal to fall apart tend to ask for fewer seller concessions than they would if there wasn't a backup offer.

For this reason, sellers frequently accept a lower price from

a backup buyer than they otherwise would. This is done as an incentive to encourage a buyer to accept a backup position. Some buyers prefer to wait and see what happens to the first deal, rather than sign a counteroffer for backup position.

Sellers should keep in mind when they do accept a backup offer that they could end up selling their home to this buyer. So, the price and terms of the offer, and the buyer's financial capabilities need to be something you can live with. There's no guarantee that the primary deal will close.

It's not always advisable for sellers to accept a backup offer. You may be better off going back on the open market if primary offer fails. It would certainly be better to start from scratch than accept an offer that looked precarious from the beginning.



**DIAN HYMER**  
House Hunting

Sometimes one offer is far superior to the rest. In this case, the sellers may feel that they will do better putting the house back on the market if the first deal falls apart. Market conditions are also relevant. If home prices are escalating, it's less risky to go back on the market than it is when the market is softening.

Buyers who are offered backup position, but who choose to take a wait and see attitude, should think again. If you're in backup position number one and the primary contract fails, your offer becomes primary without the house going back on the market. (A seller can accept more than one backup offer. If so, the backup offers are ranked: backup number one, two, etc.)

**THE CLOSING:** Buyers who are not in backup position when a listing goes back on the market, could find themselves competing with other buyers and paying a higher price.

Dian Hymer can be reached at 510-339-4777 or by e-mail at [Dian@Dianhymer.com](mailto:Dian@Dianhymer.com).

# Tarpoft

FROM PAGE B2

I suppose that Anet and I did all that anyone could have done that day. We figured it out. We moved boxes out of the water, called the water company for help, did some detective work and discovered the source of the leak. Then Anet, by calling a local hardware store and getting some good advice, found a way to cap off the pipe. And she hired a water damage fix-it company to come.

On New Year's Day we did approximately the same. That is, we did what could be done under the circumstances. We waited, not very patiently, called the P.G.&E. number to get updates, added wood to the fire, and clasped blankets to our laps.

We talked, we read magazines, we ate Christmas candy and tangerines. We watched TV on the tiny battery powered set. Anet suggested we go to the movies, but I kept expecting the power to come on. Then I could do what I'd planned to do that day, and so we didn't go. Instead, we waited.

It took 12 hours. Suddenly the lights came back on, and were we all glad. The power was very low, the lights quite dim. Not enough juice for the big TVs, but power nonetheless. And along with the

small amount was the expectation that we'd be completely back in business before long.

The grownups at P.G.&E. were taking care of things.

Pat Talbert and Anet Tarpoft are residential real estate agents who can be reached at 653-2050 and at [www.tarpoftandtalbert.com](http://www.tarpoftandtalbert.com).

**CONTACT THE REAL ESTATE EDITOR**  
AT 510-748-1655

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# Happy New Year!

Peace, joy, good health and prosperity to all of my friends and clients, whose continued support have made 2004 another record breaking year!

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## Sales

FROM PAGE B3

1 Lakeside Dr 513 - \$425,000  
 1 Lakeside Dr 605 - \$455,000  
 1 Lakeside Dr 609 - \$443,000  
 1 Lakeside Dr 920 - \$647,000  
 325 Lenox Av 205 - \$195,000  
 4031 Lincoln Av - \$439,000  
 2919 Linden St - \$315,000  
 3041 Linden St - \$485,000  
 3214 Lorenzo Av - \$260,000  
 4401 Malcolm Av - \$670,000  
 525 Mandana 208 - \$330,000  
 4801 Manila Av - \$675,000  
 4459 Masterson St - \$493,000  
 4076 Maybelle Av - \$990,000  
 2877 Morcom Av - \$560,000  
 6934 Norfolk Rd - \$1,280,000  
 7781 Olive St - \$310,000  
 357 Orange St - \$600,000  
 8353 Outlook Av - \$495,000  
 377 Palm Av - \$325,000  
 5420 Princeton St - \$526,000  
 786 Prospect Av - \$700,000  
 3834 Redding St - \$480,000  
 8946 Sage Rd - \$769,000  
 1610 Seminary Av - \$277,000  
 6403 Shelterwood - \$640,000  
 6991 Simson St - \$470,000  
 6053 Skyline Bl - \$1,295,000  
 2500 Stockbridge - \$659,000  
 6323 Sunnymere Av - \$390,000  
 8141 Surrey Ln - \$675,000  
 2421 Telegraph Av - \$255,000  
 6820 Thornhill Dr - \$905,000  
 756 Trestle Glen - \$772,000  
 1584 Tucker St - \$440,000  
 531 Valle Vista Av - \$882,500  
 584 Valle Vista Av - \$760,000  
 360 Vernon St 310 - \$240,000

2174 Vicksburg Av - \$423,000  
 689 Walavista Av - \$739,000  
 3 W. Em'cadero 140 - \$230,000  
 471 W. MacArthur - \$550,000  
 1801 Woodhaven - \$725,000

## PIEDMONT

190 Maxwellton - \$1,500,000  
 96 Maxwellton - \$1,125,000  
 4509 Moraga - \$568,500  
 191 Oak Rd - \$785,000

## RICHMOND

609 29th St - \$369,000  
 421 31st St - \$525,000  
 617 31st St - \$385,000  
 574 39th St - \$370,000  
 1717 6th St - \$410,000  
 870 8th St - \$486,500  
 421 Bissell Av - \$300,000  
 1811 Burbeck - \$325,000  
 926 Chanslor Av - \$350,000  
 3030 Clinton Av - \$610,000  
 5298 Coach Dr - \$677,000  
 5734 Columbia Av - \$477,000  
 335 Duboce Av - \$422,000  
 3153 Fairmede - \$430,000  
 3721 Florida Av - \$370,000  
 2637 Garvin Av - \$435,000  
 2635 Grant Av - \$430,000  
 334 Hawk Ridge - \$759,000  
 1340 Hayes St - \$286,500  
 1080 Heritage Ct - \$548,500  
 844 Humboldt St - \$495,000  
 3801 Jenkins Wy - \$330,000  
 1701 Larkspur Pl - \$429,000  
 1705 Larkspur Pl - \$475,000  
 709 Lassen St - \$400,000  
 2537 Maine Av - \$310,000  
 509 Maine Av - \$625,000

324 Marina Wy - \$276,000  
 1420 Nevin Plz - \$276,000  
 1 Nicholl Av - \$570,000  
 3754 Northridge - \$380,000  
 4326 Ohio Av - \$345,000  
 1308 Pelican - \$1,175,000  
 524 Pennsylvania - \$288,500  
 3019 Phillips Ct - \$410,000  
 4800 Potrero Av - \$475,000  
 50 Promontory Dr - \$510,000  
 1922 Roosevelt Av - \$330,000  
 1827 San Mateo St - \$410,000  
 1412 Santa Clara St - \$370,000  
 1736 Santa Clara St - \$515,000  
 4901 Santa Rita Rd - \$565,000  
 2209 Sea Shell Dr - \$446,000  
 41 Seagull Dr - \$575,000  
 130 South 17th St - \$294,000  
 226 South 18th St - \$350,000  
 430 South 38th St - \$375,000  
 264 South 42nd St - \$432,000  
 1234 South 56th St - \$438,000  
 119 South 6th St - \$312,000  
 155 South 9th St - \$350,000  
 439 South 9th St - \$300,000  
 3422 Sunleaf Wy - \$405,000  
 235 Tanglewood - \$734,500  
 241 Tanglewood - \$658,000  
 245 Vernon Av - \$355,000  
 314 Village Ln - \$301,000  
 825 Virginia Av - \$340,000  
 404 W. Richmond - \$520,000  
 752 Wilson Av - \$410,000

## SAN LEANDRO

1608 141st Av - \$440,000  
 980 143rd Av - \$481,000  
 1265 Alder Creek - \$630,000  
 15687 Baypoint - \$679,000  
 2206 Bermuda Av - \$345,000  
 502 Beverly Av - \$660,500

381 Breed Av - \$597,000  
 3444 Chaplet St - \$520,000  
 14813 Crosby St - \$552,000  
 14929 Crosby St - \$465,000  
 15135 Crosby St - \$801,000  
 560 Dolores Av - \$533,000  
 1026 Douglas Ct - \$440,000  
 785 Estudillo Av - \$665,000  
 1004 Frederick - \$465,500  
 380 Garcia Av - \$452,500  
 2259 Gavia Ct - \$563,000  
 663 Greer Av - \$500,000  
 14665 Hanover - \$408,000  
 15065 Hesperian 22 - \$296,000  
 15384 Hesperian - \$360,000  
 1280 Hubbard Av - \$450,000  
 854 Joaquin Av - \$655,000

14825 Lark St - \$526,500  
 894 Lewelling Bl 22 - \$310,000  
 1510 Lewelling Bl - \$545,000  
 483 Lloyd Av - \$446,500  
 354 Lorraine Bl - \$475,000  
 18693 Los Bances - \$460,000  
 2015 Luna Av - \$500,000  
 14881 Midland - \$450,000  
 504 Millstream Dr - \$590,000  
 14387 Orchid Dr - \$514,000  
 187 Peralta Av - \$459,000  
 1014 Purdue St - \$460,000  
 708 Rainer Ct - \$659,000  
 2268 Regatta Wy - \$640,000  
 1054 San Jose St - \$610,000  
 15540 Sedgeman - \$479,000  
 2241 Somerset Av - \$570,000

877 Sybil Av - \$575,000  
 2062 Trompsburg - \$575,000  
 2132 Trompsburg - \$575,000  
 718 Victoria Av - \$575,000  
 1816 Vista Green - \$575,000  
 2077 Washington - \$575,000  
 2400 West-A - \$575,000  
 415 West-A - \$575,000  
 82 Williams St - \$575,000

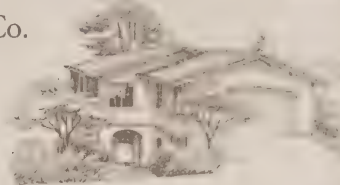
## SAN LORENZO

15766 Via Concha  
 17287 Via Estrella

See SALES

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NEW LISTING



1014 Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley

COMING SOON. A dramatic light-filled Mediterranean with a traditional breathraking Bay views and level landscaped back garden. There are four bedrooms and two and one half baths including a beautiful master suite, a family room with off the kitchen, lower rumpus room, study and double garage. This home features excellent indoor/outdoor living, designed for a contemporary lifestyle.

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Monthly Payment

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Saraya Motley, Realtor

DIRECT: 510-280-2162 EMAIL: saraya@eastbayhouse.com



# Sales

Page B4

17487 Via Melina - \$560,000  
17358 Via Susana - \$497,000  
180 Via Verde - \$565,000  
1167 Via Vista - \$515,000

## the numbers

TOTAL SALES: 24

LOWEST PRICE: \$325,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$938,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$625,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$635,292

## ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 6  
LOWEST PRICE: \$282,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$678,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$493,500  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$455,750

## EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 27  
LOWEST PRICE: \$420,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,300,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$625,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$747,926

## EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 8  
LOWEST PRICE: \$360,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$801,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$530,000

AVERAGE PRICE: \$549,563

## EL SOBRANTE

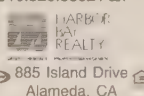
TOTAL SALES: 5  
LOWEST PRICE: \$253,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$510,000

See SALES, Page B6

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Harbor Bay Realty seeks an articulate and detail-oriented individual. Ideal candidate must be self-motivated, computer literate, able to multi-task and handle a high volume of telephone calls.

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COMPANY	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	Loan Product Rate/Points APR/Lock	COMMENTS
Arsenave Mortgage Corp. 514 7283 Fees=\$1223	30-yr Fixed 5.500...1.000 5.693...35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... 5.642...35	3/1 ARM call... 4.445...35	5/1 ARM call... 3.687...35	No closing costs loans available www.arsenave.com Best rates and lowest fees guaranteed or we pay you \$300!
Bay Area Funding 925 930-3100 Fees=\$2316	30-yr Fixed 5.500...1.000 5.693...35	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... 5.642...35	1st Time Buyer 30 4.250...1.000 4.445...35	1st Time Buyer 5/1 3.500...1.000 3.687...35	Contra Costa Co. 1ST TIME BUYER Loans *1st TIME BUYER 30 YR. FIX after Fed Subsidy. Income & price limits 100%OK
Bay Financial Corp. 772 898 8368 Fees=\$1704	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.000 5.578...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.000 5.639...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.797...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 4.546...30	100% Home Financing Programs up to 1 MIL Interest Only to 2 MIL, 8 MOS, 3/1, 5/1 180 Days Lock, NEW Construction Home PUR
Bay State Funding 925 883-5363 Fees=\$2010	30-yr Fixed call... 5.500...1.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... 5.642...35	3/1 ARM Jumbo call... 4.445...35	5/1 ARM Jumbo call... 3.687...35	We can FUND your loan. Rates change fast Call for latest rates. Ask about our INTEREST ONLY LOANS
Bay Mortgage Services 925 958-3339 Fees=\$1433	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.375 5.437...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...1.375 5.653...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...1.500 4.150...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...1.500 4.655...30	OPEN SAT/SUN/STATED OR NO INCOME LOANS AVAILABLE. CREDIT PROBLEMS OK NO FEES NO POINTS LOANS AVAILABLE.
Bay Mtge Solutions 925 259-9510 F=\$1170	30-yr Fixed 5.125...2.000 5.260...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...1.750 5.470...30	MTA - NEG ARM 1.000...1.000 3.910...45	15-yr Fixed 4.500...1.500 4.790...30	A-B-C-D Credit. 100% & 80/20 purch; 90% LTV in Bankruptcy *pot neg arm. No doc to 1M. Loans to \$4M. Foreclosure Buyouts
Baycom 925 416 8208 Fees=\$1890	30-yr Fixed 5.125...2.000 5.423...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...2.000 5.621...30	15-yr Fixed 4.500...2.000 5.003...30	15-yr Fxd Jumbo 4.675...2.000 5.288...30	Apply online at www.baycom.com -Your mortgage solution Delivered!
Bay Savings & Loan 925 359-2148 Fees=\$1428	30-yr Fixed 5.375...1.625 5.550...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...1.875 5.812...45	1-mo COFI ARM 1.000...1.000 4.689...45	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875...0.000 4.912...30	Direct lender. 45 yrs experience; fixed & adjust rate mtgs; *Pot. neg. amort Apply online at www.downeysavings.com
Bayback Financial 925 373-1471 Fees=\$1996	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.590...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.789...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875...0.000 4.912...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.825...0.000 4.862...30	JUMBO AND SUPER JUMBO SPECIALIST more rates at baybackfinancial.com Call 7days wk mltihell@baybackfinancial.com
Bay Home Loans 925 466-9890 Fees=\$1946	30-yr Fixed 5.250...0.000 5.339...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.500...0.000 5.536...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.000...0.000 4.180...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 4.585...30	100% financing. No Income Verification!! 100% non-owner, const loans, lot loans!! *30F & 30L 700 FICO, *30 J 3 yr prepay
Bay Mortgage 925 351-2274 Fees=\$1453	30-yr Fixed 5.250...1.000 5.450...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.375...1.000 5.575...30	5/1 Interest Only 4.625...1.000 4.824...30	No 5 Dwn 30-yr Fxd 5.990...1.000 6.190...30	DON'T BE "LURED IN" BY LOW QUOTES! CALL ME FOR AN HONEST LOCKABLE RATE! FIND OUT WHY I GET TONS OF REFERRALS! BAD CREDIT OK
Bay Mortgage 925 567-5628 Fees=\$1875	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.590...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.716...30	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.151...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000...0.000 5.405...30	Great Purchase, Refinance, Construction, Home Equity, 100% LTV Loans Great service. Over 25 years in Business
Bay Mutual Corp. 925 441-2600 Fees=\$2348	30-yr Fixed call... 5.500...1.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... 5.625...1.000	6 month ARM call... 5.000...1.000	3/1 ARM call... 4.875...0.000	WOW!! NO ADD-ON FOR JUMBO LOANS! No-Point loans are avail! *3yr pp 80% LTV E-mail Steve@baymutual.com
Bay West Financial 925 738-7334 Fees=\$1694	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.604...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.000 5.795...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.875...0.000 4.918...30	3/1 ARM 4.250...0.000 4.347...30	No mortgage pmts with Reverse Mortgage 103% purchase/Credit problems OK Interest Only Loans/BK OK
Bay Mortgage Group 925 368-6633 Fees=\$1992	30-yr Fixed call... 5.500...1.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... 5.625...1.000	3/1 ARM call... 5.000...1.000	5/1 ARM call... 4.875...0.000	www.pgmortgage.com Purchase specialists we get loans closed! Great Jumbo & Interest Only programs
Bay Bancorp 925 935-6266 Fees=\$1893	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.558...45	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.654...45	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.098...45	5/1 ARM 4.750...0.000 5.194...45	Good Credit! No Interest! No Income Check Loans! 1st or 2nd Mortgage Purch/Refi to 100% Saratoga Bancorp.com
Bay Mutual Bank 925 295 1711 Fees=\$1149	30-yr Fixed call... 5.500...1.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... 5.625...1.000	3/1 ARM call... 5.000...1.000	5/1 ARM call... 4.875...0.000	Purchase: Can close in 5 days/no points Complimentary pre-approval cost Aval 7 days a week, including evenings
Bay Home Mtge. 925 809 1502 Fees=\$1431	30-yr Fixed call... 5.500...1.000	30-yr Fxd Jumbo call... 5.625...1.000	5/1 ARM Jumbo 5.000...0.000 5.024...30	10/1 ARM Jumbo 5.375...0.000 5.400...30	100% to 1 MIL. Free Pre Approval Credit Lines to 3 Mil * Purchase Loans
Bay Mortgage 925 561 4446 Fees=\$1899	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.610...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.810...30	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.080...30	5/1 ARM 4.575...0.000 4.940...30	Open weekends. Credit problems OK *Apply online: www.superior-mtg.net
Bay Mortgage 925 681 6200 Fees=\$1595	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.000 5.970...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.625...0.000 5.710...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.750...0.000 4.810...30	3/1 ARM Jumbo 4.500...0.000 4.570...30	OPEN WEEKENDS-LOCK YOUR RATE TODAY! LOWER PAYMENTS W/ INT. ONLY GET PRE-APPROVED OVER THE PHONE IN 5 MIN
Baycom 925 411 4746 Fees=\$2460	30-yr Fixed 5.500...0.375 5.608...30	30-yr Fxd Jumbo 5.750...0.125 5.791...30	15-yr Fixed 5.000...0.000 5.124...30	5/1 ARM Jumbo 4.825...0.250 4.942...30	Apply and lock online 24/7 Open Sat. and Sun. from 9am til 2pm. Rates and Fees Posted Online Daily

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- Learn about each lender's products & services
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- Hotlinks to all lenders' websites
- Prequalify, preapprove or apply online

Based on \$175,000 loan for single family residence. Jumbo rates (loans in excess of \$359,850) based on \$400,000 loan. All rates are believed to be accurate but cannot be guaranteed and are subject to change without notice. Minimum downpayment requirements and other restrictions may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. Includes origination and discount fees. APR = annual percentage rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance if required. \*30-yr purchase money loan and may vary from loan to loan. These are not inclusive of all costs and do not include points, prepaid interest, title insurance or escrow items. Click on "Current Mortgage Rates" section of website + contact each company for details. Copyright 2003, INFOTRAK National Data Services and Knight Publishing Co.

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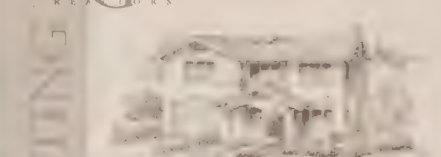
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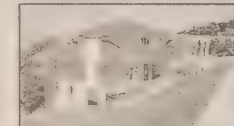
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## Sales

FROM PAGE B5

MEDIAN PRICE: \$290,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$329,400

## EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 10  
LOWEST PRICE: \$250,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$680,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$470,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$458,150

## KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 6  
LOWEST PRICE: \$450,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,020,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$730,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$672,500

## PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 4  
LOWEST PRICE: \$568,500  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,500,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$1,125,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$994,625

## SAN LEANDRO

TOTAL SALES: 49  
LOWEST PRICE: \$296,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$710,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$500,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$511,316

## OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 154  
LOWEST PRICE: \$175,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$2,475,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$430,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$512,536

## RICHMOND

TOTAL SALES: 60  
LOWEST PRICE: \$276,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$1,175,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$410,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$442,008

## SAN LORENZO

TOTAL SALES: 6  
LOWEST PRICE: \$415,000  
HIGHEST PRICE: \$565,000  
MEDIAN PRICE: \$515,000  
AVERAGE PRICE: \$501,500

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\*\*5.789% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$333,700 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment on maximum conforming loan amount of \$333,700 is approximately \$1,974. Minimum loan amount \$100,000. Homeowners insurance is required.  
\*\*\*6.013% estimated annual percentage rate is based on \$500,000 loan amount. Applicable closing costs will apply. Loan term is for 30 years and subject to maximum loan-to-value of 80%. Estimated payment is \$2,988. Homeowners insurance is required.

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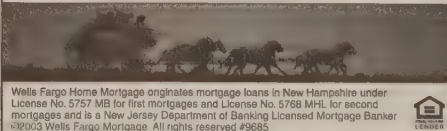


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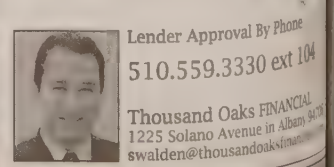


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May Peace, Joy and the Magic of the Holiday Season be with you throughout the coming year.

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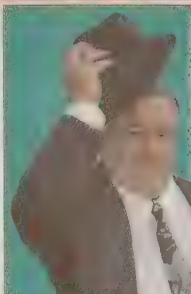
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*Wishing you  
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*Chris*  
**Chris Neddersen**

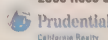
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*Peace, Joy & Best Wishes  
for the New Year!*



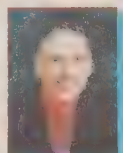
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ABOVE: EVERGREEN PLANTATION has a large collection of outbuildings and 22 well-preserved slave cabins.

RIGHT: MADEWOOD PLANTATION, near Napoleonville, Louisiana, is about 16 miles from the Great River Road but worth the trip.



PHOTOS BY NANCY BIANCHI

# Plantations on the River Road from Baton Rouge to New Orleans

BY ROBERT CROSS  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

WHITE CASTLE, La. - You could look at the region as a kind of riverside factory zone, an agricultural machine growing sugar cane in loamy fields, then grinding it up, processing the lot and moving product down the Mississippi or over the tracks and highways to sweeten our lives.

In the antebellum days, most planters pared their farms down to the basics, keeping a simple main house for periodic visits and leaving the daily operation to overseers, slave drivers and the slaves who made their riches possible. If the owners had wealth to parade, most of them did that in New Orleans and Europe.

On old maps, their holdings look like long, skinny bristles sprouting along the river from Baton Rouge to New Orleans, a distance of about 85 miles. Go much farther north and the winters get too cold for sugar cane. Above Baton Rouge, cotton was king.

A small number of planters did put their money into grand living quarters within sight of the river or the bayous. People can tour a few that survived the Civil War or that were restored and rescued from the neglect that comes with bankruptcy.

The route for plantation-hopping is called the River Road, although more than one road is involved. The Mississippi meanders too much for just a single byway. And there are plantations to see on either side. Levees, built in 1919, keep the Mississippi in check, ruining the panorama that undoubtedly inspired a few wealthy planters to build impressive mansions within sight of its muddy currents. Chemical plants and refineries also mark parts of the landscape with raw towers of exposed plumbing and eerie light bulbs. In spots, trailer parks fill the plots where plantation homes used to be.

Visitors trying to pick up that old antebellum vibe must choose their sight lines carefully and absorb the tales spun by house-tour guides who make valiant efforts to evoke the past. The South was genteel and congenial in some aspects, ugly and brutal in others - overflowing with silk, damask, crystal, gold, mahogany, lace, sweat and blood.

A long time ago, the interpreters might have hidden grim aspects of 18th and 19th century plantation life under a thick coat of varnish, at least when company came. Now the properties that welcome visitors function as windows into Southern living at its most glorious and dreadful. Guides cite research. Some owners encourage archeological digs in the yards, fields and swamps.

In 1841, John Randolph bought his Nottoway plantation in Iberville Parish. After the house was finished in 1859, he filled it with fine furniture (check out the hand-carved mahogany Chippendale in the dining room), and a family that included his wife and 11 children.

It was the largest plantation house in the South with 64 rooms and 53,000 square feet. Out back were 7,000 acres and 42 other buildings, most of them slave quarters. Those structures are gone.

Guide Lucy Olivier paused between tours of handsome public rooms and private chambers to mention the subtext of antebellum Louisiana.

"Tax records tell us that John Randolph was the largest slave owner in the parish," she said. "He had 176 slaves, 88 males and 88 females between the ages of 15 and 45. Children under 15 weren't taxed."

In the peak years of sugar cane farming, the grounds included a hospital and bathhouse for the slaves, and a meeting hall where they would attend Catholic mass

every other Sunday and practice their own religion on alternate weeks.

They could have parties in the hall on Saturday nights.

Each slave cabin ("whitewashed and under shade trees," Olivier noted) was built on stilts to protect them from floods. Workers' families all had individual plots of land to grow their own vegetables.

"I'm not trying to tell you that John Randolph was a great humanitarian," Olivier said. "He was a good businessman."

Beginning in 1808, Congress outlawed the importation of slaves, compelling the cleverest businessmen and women along the Mississippi to take good care of the slaves they had. "Those pre-existing slaves were a very expensive commodity," Olivier explained. "You could get \$800 to \$1,000 for a slave."

After the Civil War, of course, the institution of slavery came to an end. Samuel Eliot Morison in "The Oxford History of the American People" claims that John Randolph somehow profited even more when he had to pay his newly freed workers, "a thing that no Southerner before 1860 would have thought possible."

Nottoway is the sort of be-columned and snowy white plantation favored by the wealthy Anglos and Americans who got into the sugar cane business. It's said that it was the inspiration for the plantation in the movie version of "Gone With the Wind" and that the puddled drapes in the parlor were the prototype for the ones Scarlett O'Hara cut up to fashion a makeshift gown. Draped bottoms formed puddles of velvet on the floor just to show people that the owner could afford the excess material, Olivier said.

Across the river in Vacherie, in 1805, a far less opulent plantation now called Laura was built in the Creole style - relatively small and painted yellow with a few slave cabins out back. A fire in the main house this August destroyed the roof and a lot of the second floor.

So visitors can't tour the house, but realities of plantation life live on in the stories told by the tour guides. The day after the fire was put out, the grounds reopened to the public and tours resumed. Norman and Sand Marmillion bought the property in 1993 and, thanks to exhaustive detective work reaching all the way to forgotten archives in Paris, have been able to paint a detailed picture of the life and times of the plantation.

The name comes from Laura Locoul Gore, a woman who grew up on the plantation and chronicled its history. The Marmillions published her journal in a book called "Memories of the Old Plantation Home & a Creole Family Album."

"Creole is the culture of Louisiana before it was part of the U.S.," Norman Marmillion said one afternoon during a tour of Laura's 13 acres. "It's a blending of Europeans, west Africans and native Indians into a single culture. Until the 1920s, out here on the river it was what most of the people were."

Marmillion pointed out the physical characteristics of the place that make it so different from lavish Anglo mansions like Nottoway and the nearby showplace plantations of Oak Alley and Evergreen.

The yellow paint on the main house - built by slaves from Senegal - signaled that a Creole, French-speaking family lived within. Windows, the veranda and other architectural details show French and West African influences.

All the research dug up by the Marmillions allows tour guides to put visitors into the shoes of family members, slaves and former slaves as they lived on the property over several generations.

"We have so much information here," Marmillion said, "that we're

actually able to say, 'At this spot, at this well, this happened.'"

When Laura Locoul was 7 years old, she was playing by the well in question when an old man came up to pump water for his mule. Laura recognized him as a former slave named Philippe and noticed he had the initials V.D.P. branded on his forehead.

She asked him what happened, and he said that one day he had tried to run away, but some men from the plantation caught him and brought him back. Her grandmother then burned her initials on his forehead with the same sort of branding iron plantation workers used on the cattle.

Laura ran into the house and asked her mother how this could be true. "My dear child, I had hoped you would never hear of these cruelties until you were much older," she said. Of the 200 people on the plantation, most would never do such a thing, her mother went on, but there were people Laura knew and loved who were capable of horrible actions - including her grandmother.

By the time she reached her teens, Laura realized she would inherit the plantation. "In the Creole world, you didn't give the plantation to the oldest son, like they do in other places," Marmillion explained. "You give it to the smartest child."

Laura told her father that she didn't want to take on that burden and become "vicious" like some of the other women in the family. Eventually she moved to St. Louis and lived there the rest of her life. At one point, 65 years after that sorry encounter at the well, two of Laura's daughters came up to her and said, "We just started reading a good book about plantations in the South. It's called 'Gone With the Wind.' Is this the way your life on the plantation was?"

Telling the story, Marmillion looked mildly amused. "Laura said, 'Don't turn another page. I'll write it.' And it took her five years to write the pages we found 11 years ago." That was the provenance of "Memories" - a chronicle about real life on a real plantation without all the hand-kissing and gowns made out of draperies.

A few of Laura's slave cabins remain intact. In the 1870s, a neighbor, Alcee Fortier, would go back there and talk with the Senegalese workers. From the former slaves' folk tales about Compare Lapin, the clever rabbit, and Compare Bouki, the stupid hyena, Fortier published - in French - the first stories in print featuring those characters.

In Georgia, Joel Chandler Harris heard similar stories from former slaves and created, a year after Fortier's book came out, "Tales of Uncle Remus," starring the rascally Br'er Rabbit. So Br'er Rabbit first attracted the attention of the outside world via Laura plantation.

For antebellum romance, people go to nearby Oak Alley. Two rows of 300-year-old live oaks line the long drive toward the big-house entrance. There are 14 oaks to a side with low-hanging branches that nearly block the view of a beautifully proportioned structure built in 1839.

Two-story galleries lined with Doric columns surround the brick mansion. Rooms glisten with enameled cypress woodwork, and the long dining room table appears all set to welcome guests.

"The owners held elaborate dinner parties, but that was the extent of the social life around here at the time," said tour guide Mary Jane Redell. She wore a ruffled blouse with puffy sleeves and a maroon hoop skirt.

Jacques Telesphore Roman, the original owner of Oak Alley, loved the countryside. His wife, Celina, preferred the social whirl of New Orleans. For that reason, they kept a

townhouse in the French Quarter. Celina, therefore, made frequent commutes by riverboat up and down the Mississippi, probably alongside barges loaded with sugar cane.

All those long, narrow plantations - many farmed by tenant farmers even today - required river frontage so they could ship product down to the New Orleans port and receive supplies from Crescent City.

In a hallway, Redell pointed to a framed copy of an 1858 map showing all the properties bristling westward and eastward from the riverbanks. She gestured toward the snakelike image of the Mississippi. "I just think of this as a big ol' Interstate," she declared. "It would take a day to get from New Orleans to here."

With 1,260 acres, Oak Alley Plantation was relatively small. Evergreen Plantation, another neighboring property, also looked puny with its 2,000 acres. But today it stands as the best example of the way a working Anglo-style plantation really looked.

Two facing ranks of 22 slave cabins still stand, shaded by two neat rows of live oaks, 100 trees in all.

"We know they grew in the soil and soot that washed down the river from the north," said Evergreen director Jane Boddie during a tour through the slave shack "neighborhood." "You can't grow a tree in pure Louisiana soil, and we sure have tried."

Whitewashed outbuildings - separate quarters for the plantation owner's sons, a privy, small cabins called pigeoniers and the kitchen building - all demonstrate the pattern of daily routines, while the main house is a graceful model of Greek Revival elegance with precisely trimmed hedges in the French garden and a modest number of rooms.

Basically, the house is just one room wide with living quarters spilling out to the surrounding veranda. In 1721, Evergreen started as a vegetable farm tended by German immigrants. Over the decades, the property changed hands. Eventually, in the 1830s, Pierre Clidamant Becnel shaped the plantation and remodeled the house, changing it from Creole style to Greek Revival, even though everything else about Evergreen remained French.

After the place nearly fell into total ruin in the 1930s, oil heiress and architecture buff Matilda Gray bought Evergreen and had it restored to the way it looked during the years of Pierre Becnel.

After Mrs. Gray died in 1971, her niece, Matilda Gray Stream, acquired the property and has maintained it as a home, important archeological site and tourist attraction.

"These buildings have to pay for themselves," Boddie said. "Tourism is saving important properties along the River Road. Visitors can come here and see how the people lived, stay all day, go on both tours (a swamp tour, as well as a

plantation tour), eat lunch, or just go sit under a live oak tree. It's a very unusual experience." For my last stop in the lower River Road region, I took a detour to Madewood Plantation in Napoleonville on Bayou Lafourche. Just before dark, the cane fields loomed in tall shadows close to Louisiana Highway 308, making nearby clusters of suburban-style ranch homes look incongruous.

Madewood's main house was stunning, an imposing Greek Revival wonder that began to rise in 1848 and took eight years to complete. Its columns appear thicker than those of other mansions along the plantation routes. It gleamed in the waning sunlight and implied that its former occupants were people of considerable substance.

By reputation and the extensive press Madewood receives in the

## IF YOU GO

More details are available at the Baton Rouge Area Convention Visitors Bureau, 800-827-4422, 225-346-1253; [www.batonrouge.com](http://www.batonrouge.com).

Or contact the Louisiana Tourism, 1051 N. 34 St., New Orleans, LA 70002-9231; 504-581-8119; [www.crl.state.la.us](http://www.crl.state.la.us).

food and shelter. I would find polished floors inside, plus some complicated chandeliers, carved armchairs and some meals.

Madewood has become and it wins all sorts of awards. But it was getting to feel haggard and a proper finery.

I had people to see in leans and a 75-mile drive there. Too many plantations short a time can be boring. There are some home tracts that can't be ignored. It's a pity that the soul is how lovely they may be.

## OPEN HOMES

Alameda		
\$549,000	1154 Admiralty Lane	480/2584
Sun 2-4	Bay Farm Island	510-814-4013
Harbor Bay Realty		Nancy Bianchi
\$630,000	1316 9th Street	3+80/286
Sun 2-4	Gold Coast	510-814-4035
Harbor Bay Realty		Nina Quan
Oakland		
\$230,000	3489 Midvale Ave #4	180/18A
Sun 2-4pm	Laurel	510-434-2010
Prudential California		Colin Kelly Hill
\$325,000	525 Mandana Blvd #303	180/18A
Sun 1-5pm	Lake Merritt	510-434-2010
Prudential Grand Lake		Robert Nongauze
\$475,000	3817 Coolidge Ave.	280/18A
Open Sun 2-4		925-372-3311
Richards Realty		Bob Richards
\$725,000	320 Wayne Ave	Duplex
Open Sun 2-4pm		510-252-2021
Red Oak Realty		Linda Elkin
Richmond		
\$329,000	2425 Rheem	2+80/2185
Open Sun 2-4pm		510-208-2185
Red Oak Realty		Sara Garebodian
\$5	2542 Treedside Way	380/2584
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Security Pacific		Tracy Holm

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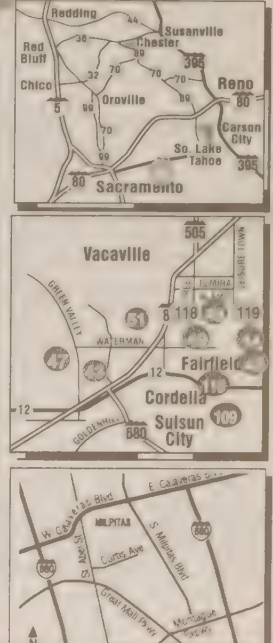
This serene Redwood Heights home is perfect for entertaining. The remodeled eat-in kitchen boasts honed granite counters and all stainless steel appliances, including a 36" DCS professional range and oven, and French doors leading to the patio. In addition to the 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, there is a living room and dining area with wide-plank hardwood floors, as well as a family room. This is a house you will be proud to call home!

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SOISON

**10 The Classics at Peterson Ranch**  
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Lane Follow signs to the end  
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plus two new home neighborhoods  
selling. Fairway Villas by Pacific

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[www.vistathedenbrooks.com](http://www.vistathedenbrooks.com)

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www.diffracton.com D.R. Ho

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From the low \$900,000s. Unique homes on the water's edge in Glen Cove. 4-5 bedrooms. Approx. 3063 to 3500 sq. ft. Gourmet kitchen, designer-selected features. 100 Chairmaster Place, Valley (off of Coast Highway/Point), Doug Menden & Son, 12 E. Franklin & Suite 101.











## ALAMEDA



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**449-451 PACIFIC AVE. \$645,000**  
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 TWO HOUSES ON LARGE LOT. The front house has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, wood floors, hook-ups for a washer and dryer and a 1 car attached garage. The 1 bedroom, 1 bath rear house has an additional room and storage area and also hookups for a washer and dryer. The Wedgewood stove and the refrigerator are included in the sale. This property is close to schools, transportation and shopping. Call for more details and to schedule a visit.

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 Rolando & Coqui Basora 510-506-2051



**936-938 PACIFIC AVE. \$789,000**  
**West End By Appointment Only**  
 ONE OF A KIND DUPLEX. The front unit has 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and its own carport. The rear unit is large with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, a family room, fireplace, dining room and double car garage. Each unit has wall to wall carpeting and window coverings, stove, refrigerator, washer and dryer. The property has a large rear yard with a covered patio.

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**3104 THOMPSON AVE. \$749,500**  
**East End By Appointment Only**  
 HARD TO FIND FERNSIDE HOME. Located near Edison school, this home has 3 bedrooms, 1.25 baths, an extra large living room and formal dining room. The kitchen has a breakfast nook and all appliances including a washer and dryer. The basement would make a great family room, charming backyard with a covered patio and fish pond. And a single car garage.

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**1505 CENTRAL AVE. \$950,000**  
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 3 UNITS. Each unit has 2 bedrooms, and 1 bath. Unit "C" has recently been remodeled and a new roof has been installed. The living rooms and dining rooms have hardwood floors and each unit has 2 off street parking spaces. This triplex is close to schools and transportation.

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**2101 SHORELINE DR. #448 \$490,000**  
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# Gallagher & Lindsey REALTORS

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Mario & Wendy Mariani know and love Alameda and the East Bay. Both loyal natives of this beautiful island situated in San Francisco Bay, it was only natural that when Mario married Wendy Lombardi forty years ago they would make Alameda their home and raise their family. Both Mario and Wendy, and both of their families have lived in Alameda their entire lives.

Having owned three very successful businesses in Alameda, including Mariani's Liquor, Deli and Catering Company in Ballena Bay, it was obvious that Mario would extend an invitation to his wife, Wendy, to join him in his extremely successful real estate career at Gallagher & Lindsey. Wendy said "We

have the heart and the passion to help people of all ages enjoy the reality of owning their own home."

Recently Mariani made it possible for two young successful business women to celebrate the holidays in their own homes by selling one of them a condo at the Capri, and one at The Shores. Mariani said, "To be successful in sales and marketing you must know your clients, and we spend time learning their likes and dislikes and when the sale closes the thing that pleases us most is to hear - "thanks, you did a great job."

Mario and Wendy Mariani can be reached at Gallagher & Lindsey at 510-748-1174.

**Mario & Wendy Mariani REALTORS\***

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## ALAMEDA



**891-895 CEDAR 2216-2270 CLINTON \$1,250,000**  
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 CONTEMPORARY HOME with 3 bedrooms (includes a large master suite) and 2 baths. The den on the main level could be the 4th bedroom. In the rear of the home there is a sunroom. Take a stroll to Lake Merritt. Also walking distance to BART, Laney College and Chinatown.

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**2841 SANTA CLARA AVE. \$750,000**  
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## OAKLAND



**816-7TH AVENUE, OAKLAND \$548,000**  
**New China Town By Appointment Only**  
 CONTEMPORARY HOME with 3 bedrooms (includes a large master suite) and 2 baths. The den on the main level could be the 4th bedroom. In the rear of the home there is a sunroom. Take a stroll to Lake Merritt. Also walking distance to BART, Laney College and Chinatown.

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## OAKLAND



**1241 HIGH STREET \$749,000**  
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**1140 MEADOWCREST DR. \$595,000**  
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## \$630,000 - Eastshore/Fernside

Median Sales Price (2003)\*

## Neighborhood Focus: Eastshore and Fernside

Eastshore: With boat docks on the Alameda estuary, the Eastshore area is a sweet place to live. Eastshore is close to all and its peaceful tree lined streets make for great living. Across the water you can see the fireworks at The Oakland Coliseum at night and sunrises over the beautiful Oakland hills in the morning.

Fernside: This neighborhood is one of the older communities in Alameda. Ideal for families with children, Fernside is surrounded by schools, parks, shopping, churches and recreation. The neighborhood was built in 1920's through 1940's providing a classy mixture of Victorian, Craftsman and Mediterranean style homes. Fernside also connects Alameda to Oakland via High Street and Fernside Bridges.

## Selling a home in Alameda's Eastshore or Fernside District?

Evelyn Kennedy has motivated "Baby Boomer" clients that want to go from a two story to a one story home featuring three bedrooms, two and a half baths and preferably with formal dining. They are looking for a home in the \$750,000 range and want to move to the Eastshore area or the Fernside District. These "Baby Boomers" are well qualified and are ready to make an offer as soon as they find what they are looking for. Are you considering a move? Do you have a home that may fit their needs? Call Evelyn Kennedy at 510-748-1120.



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\*Sales data is an estimation. FRIL is a residential real estate firm. Properties sold May 2003 - May 2004. This information is for informational purposes only and is not a contract.

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◆ East End Alameda - 2424 Central Avenue

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## OAKLAND



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 Moon Tam



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www.GallagherandLindsey.com  
 Mila Nakpil



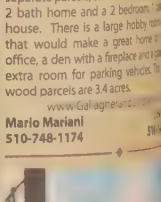
**17961 MADISON AVE. Castro Valley**  
 ONE OF A KIND PROPERTY. 2 separate parcels, one of which has 2 bath home and a 2 bedroom house. There is a large hobby room that would make a great home office, a den with a fireplace and an extra room for parking vehicles. The wood parcels are 3.4 acres.

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 Mario Mariani 510-748-1174

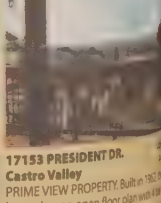


**17153 PRESIDENT DR. Castro Valley**  
 PRIME VIEW PROPERTY. Built in 1960, this home has an open floor plan with a large master suite, 3 bedrooms and a covered patio off the large master suite. Also included is a laundry room, storage room. Inside the double storage shelves and a wood burning great view from the upper level.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com  
 Mary Ann Herber



**NAPA**



**36 BELVEDERE CT. Napa**  
 WELL MAINTAINED. This 2 story home has 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and has 2 bedrooms and a bath area, deck attached to the living room. The complex offers a pool and laundry room.

www.GallagherandLindsey.com  
 Keiko McDonah



# SPORTS

• Friday, December 31, 2004 •

Section C

## 2004 IN REVIEW

### ON DECK

#### Prep girls basketball

■ **St. Mary's at Piedmont, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday** — The two powerful squads faced each other five times last season, with the Highlanders winning all five games. This is the first matchup between the two teams this season, but the Panthers will play without star Shantrell Speed, who suffered a shoulder injury last week in the Nike Tournament of Champions.

#### Prep boys basketball

■ **St. Mary's at Piedmont, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday** — Both the Panthers and the Highlanders have won tournaments this season.

#### Prep boys soccer

■ **Richmond at Berkeley, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday** — The perennial Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League powerhouses meet for the first time this league season. Richmond is first in the league standings with a 3-0 record, and Berkeley is tied for third with a 1-1-1 mark.

#### Prep girls soccer

■ **Salesian at Albany, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday** — The Cougars (3-2-1 in Bay Shore Athletic League play) could face a stiff challenge from the traditionally tough Chieftains (2-3 BSAL).

■ **Alameda at El Cerrito, 5:30 p.m. Thursday** — The Gauchos (1-2 in ACCAL play) need a win to stay close to the league leaders. Alameda is 2-0 in league action.

#### Stars of the week

■ **Turquoise Wilder, El Cerrito girls basketball** — Wilder sank a buzzer-beating shot to give the Gauchos a 54-52 victory over Desert Vista-Phoenix in the Gold Division championship game of the Nike Tournament of Champions. Wilder finished with a game-high 18 points and 11 rebounds. She also had a game-high 18 points and six rebounds in the Gauchos' 63-24 victory over Timpanogos-Crown (Utah) in the semifinals. Wilder had 16 points and 10 rebounds in the Gauchos' 66-46 victory over Hogan-Valley in the Coral Division first round of the West Coast Jamboree.

■ **Courtney Dunn, St. Mary's girls basketball** — Dunn scored a game-high 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the Panthers' 58-45 victory over Highlands Ranch-Colorado in the Gray Division consolation final of the Nike Tournament of Champions. She also had 16 points and eight rebounds in St. Mary's 71-45 victory over La Jolla Country Day in the Diamond Division of the West Coast Jamboree.

■ **Martine Lewis, Albany girls basketball** — Lewis scored a team-high 11 points as the Cougars defeated Valley Christian-San Jose 44-43 in the first round of the West Coast Jamboree Coral Division.

### PREP ROUNDUP

#### Panthers finish strong at tourney

■ **El Cerrito girls improve their record to 9-1 with pair of routs**

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER  
The St. Mary's High School girls basketball team won the consolation final of the Nike Tournament of Champions Gray Division with a 58-45 victory over Highlands Ranch-Colorado on Dec. 23 at Basha-Chandler, Ariz. The Panthers outscored Highlands Ranch 19-5 in the second quarter to take control. Courtney Dunn scored a game-high 19 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in the victory. Teammate Christina Johnson added 10 points.

**Long Beach Poly 55, St. Mary's 35:** The Panthers were outscored 24-11 in the second half of this first-round game in

See ROUNDUP, Page 2

### HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	De La Salle	5-0	Should take unbeaten record to SoCal for Torrey Pines tourney
2.	Newark Memorial	7-1	Cougars also headed to the elite Torrey Pines Holiday Classic
3.	Berkeley	6-1	Stumbles against Tokay-Lodi, but rebounds to beat Hayward, Salesian
4.	Salesian	7-2	Holds Berkeley's Lowhorn to six points in second half of a 60-52 loss
5.	St. Mary's	7-1	Panthers avenge lone loss by routing Terra Linda by 23 points
6.	Pinole Valley	8-1	Earns respect with a win over Oakland Tech and a near-upset of DLS
7.	Deer Valley	6-2	Beats Tokay to claim championship of Mel Goode Tournament
8.	Campolindo	9-3	Cougars hold their own by going 2-3 in trip to San Luis Obispo
9.	San Leandro	8-2	Pirates get best of Monte Vista with a 64-54 win in Danville
10.	Castlemont	8-1	Sluggish effort yields first loss of the season to Rioran-S.F.

Others receiving votes: San Ramon Valley 9-1, St. Joseph Notre Dame 5-4. The boys high school poll incorporates all East Bay high schools. Records are through Dec. 22.



MARQUETA GREEN, left, helped lead El Cerrito to the NCS Division III final. Sean Carey of Albany finished second in the 800-meter final at the CIF state track meet.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/STAFF

## A memorable year for many

■ **Local high school teams, athletes gave us plenty to remember**

By Phil Jensen

STAFF WRITER  
It was a banner year for local high school sports, as teams and individuals made their presence known throughout the state this year. El Cerrito High School, however, almost lost its sports programs. On March 8, the West Contra Costa School District board approved \$16.5 million in cuts which included the elimination of high school sports programs in the district, which includes El Cerrito. But the passage of Measure B in June, as well as donations from around the community, allowed high school sports to continue at El Cerrito and the district's other five high schools.

Here are a few other remembrances about the year in local

high school sports:

**FLYING TO THE TOP:** Four local high school athletes finished in the top two in state competition this year.

St. Mary's high jumper Ed Wright bounced back from an injury-dominated 2003 season to win the boys high jump at the 2004 California Interscholastic Federation state track and field championships with a leap of 6-10 $\frac{1}{4}$ . Wright cleared 7-0 at both the Bay Shore Athletic League championships and the North Coast Section Meet of Champions, which tied for the second-best mark in the state this year.

Berkeley wrestler Jere Summers won the 162-pound division in the California Girls State Wrestling Championships. She pinned both of her opponents in the championship meet.

Albany's Sean Carey finished second in the boys 800-meter final at the CIF state track and field championships and also won the event at the NCS Meet



A STIRRING SPEECH by Kamani Hill, center, helped give Berkeley a playoff berth. The Yellow Jackets went on to win the NCS 3A title.

of Champions (1:52.15) for the second year in a row with the third-fastest time in the state this year.

St. Mary's Gabriela Rios-

Sotelo finished second in the CIF Division IV girls state cross country championship race with an outstanding time of 18:20 for the 3.1 mile course.

**CLIMBING THE HILL OF SUCCESS:** The Berkeley boys soccer team overcame long odds to win the 2004 North Coast Section 3A championship.

The Yellow Jackets boys soccer team had sanctions imposed both by Berkeley High and the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League Board of Managers after it was determined that the Yellow Jackets were scheduled to play 26 games during the regular season, two more than is allowed by NCS bylaws. Berkeley forfeited its last two regular-season games (the forfeits did not count in overall matches played according to an NCS bylaw) and a school-imposed sanction was the suspension of coach Janu Juarez for the remainder of the season.

But the team didn't let the circumstances faze them. Team member Kamani Hill gave a two-minute presentation at the NCS

See REVIEW, Page 2

## Hornets, Oilers look good at boys soccer tournament

By Robert Jordan

STAFF WRITER  
THE ALAMEDA AND Richmond boys soccer teams represented the Alameda Contra Costa Athletic League well in the Gold Division at the Winter Classic last week.

The Oilers and Hornets went a combined 5-3 at the four-day event held at Monte Vista, California, San Ramon and Amador Valley.

Alameda finished fourth, losing a heartbreaker to Monte Vista.

The Hornets and Mustangs played four extra periods — two ten-minute periods and two five-minute periods of sud-

### ACCAL NOTEBOOK

den death overtime — with Monte Vista winning 3-2 on penalty kicks.

"It was great theater," Alameda coach Eric Smiler said. "... If we play soccer like this type in league, we will be in good shape."

Smiler and his team opened the tournament with a 1-0 loss to California before beating Castro Valley and Newark Memorial to advance to the third-place game.

Richmond, the defending ACCAL champions, went 3-1 and posted wins over Washing-

ton, Concord and James Logan. The tournament prepped the Oilers for a tough upcoming week.

Coach Rene Siles and his team play Berkeley on Tuesday, Pinole Valley on Thursday and De La Salle on Saturday.

"(The tournament) showed us what we have to work on and that is the way we usually look at the tournament," Siles said. "I was a little disappointed. We are a young team, and we lost it there to San Ramon Valley. But I am pleased with the performance of the other games."

The Oilers fell 4-1 to San Ramon Valley in their second game but shut out Washington, Concord and James Logan.

**RELOADING:** The El Cerrito High School girls basketball team has only one returning starter from last season's team which reached the North Coast Section Division III championship game.

But the Gauchos have been powerful so far this season. They have a 9-1 record at press time and won the Gold Division of the Nike Tournament of Champions last week.

"When I come into a season, I just focus on development. I don't look in terms of up and down years. I look in terms of what we need to do to be successful," El Cerrito coach Ron Williams said.

The one returning starter,

Turquoise Wilder, sank the winning shot in El Cerrito's 54-52 victory over Desert Vista-Phoenix in the Gold Division championship game of the Nike Tournament of Champions on Dec. 22.

Williams was pleased with the team play he saw from the Gauchos in the Nike Tournament of Champions.

"They worked really well together as a team. (The tournament) gave us an opportunity to get away from the Bay Area and a lot of distractions. It gave us a chance to develop team-building," he said.

Staff writer Phil Jensen contributed to this notebook.

### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL POLL

Rank	School	Record	Comment
1.	Piedmont	9-0	Earns Nike TOC match vs. Christ the King-N.Y.C. in battle of nation's top teams
2.	Oakland Tech	3-2	Bulldogs advance to TOC semifinals, fall to Christ the King
3.	Carondelet	4-1	Cougars' welcome to Phoenix marred by loss to guess who? Christ the King
4.	St. Mary's	3-3	Panthers rebound with solid win over CIF Division V champ Forest Lake Christian
5.	Moreau Catholic	6-1	Mariners claim Walnut Creek Holiday Classic championship
6.	Castlemont	11-1	Knights suffer lone loss with 56-55 setback to Butler (Penn.) in Las Vegas
7.	Deer Valley	4-0	Necolia Simmons goes for 30 as Wolverines win Chico Nichols Shootout
8.	Miramonte	8-1	Matadors go 2-1 in Phoenix in the Nike TOC Gold Division
9.	Pinole Valley	8-0	Spartans head to West Coast Jamboree with two tournament titles
10.	El Cerrito	7-1	Gauchos win Gold at Nike TOC behind Turquoise Wilder's 18 points

The high school girls basketball poll incorporates all East Bay high. Records are through Dec. 22.



# St. Pat's looks to give Albany a run for BSAL

■ Cougars wrestling squad may not be as strong, but still figures to be the team to beat

By Dave Carpenter  
STAFF WRITER

**A**FTER LOSING FIVE Bay Shore Athletic League champions to graduation — including one California Interscholastic Federation state qualifier — Albany High School's wrestling team may have a difficult time defending its league title.

Cougars coach Kermit Bankson, in his 35th season at his post, believes St. Patrick

might be able to dethrone his squad.

Still, expect Albany to be one of the top two teams.

"St. Pat's is the team to beat," Bankson said. "It should be between us and them, I hope."

Albany's key losses include Patrick Skinner (130 pounds), Steven Pressnall (135), Kofi Yadom (140), Levi Sheats (160) and Michael Grossman (171). Pressnall was third in the North Coast Section and was a CIF state qualifier.

Albany does return Mark Anders (112 or 119), Pratik Maru (119, 125 or 130), Sean Dutas (160), Levi Porras (189) and Robby Nichols (275).

## BSAL NOTEBOOK

Newcomers that have impressed Bankson are freshmen Taylor Raphael (103 or 112) and Daniel Singh (112 or 119) and sophomore Daniel Simonelli (125 or 130).

"We have a lot of freshmen," Bankson said. "A bunch of them have a chance to be decent, I think."

The longtime coach said this is the hardest-working group of grapplers he's ever had.

"We're not doing that bad as young as we are," he said.

The Cougars have won the league championship three of the four years of the BSAL's ex-

istence. St. Patrick won the title in 2003.

Albany and St. Patrick are the only schools that have been able to consistently wrestle with full squads.

Even though Berkeley is the largest school in the league, it has had trouble fielding a full lineup in the past.

The Yellow Jackets are classified by the NCS as an East Bay 3A team. Albany is in East Bay 2A and Athenian, California School for the Deaf, John Swett and St. Patrick are in Class A.

CSD was added this season, making the BSAL a six-team league. The Eagles come from the much-larger Mission Valley

League, which includes NCS power James Logan.

"They were getting chewed up so they were looking for a new place to be," Bankson said.

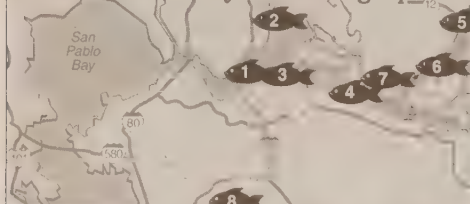
He said he wasn't sure how the Eagles would fare in the BSAL.

**TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS:** Piedmont and St. Mary's girls basketball teams played in the Nike Tournament of Champions in Arizona last week, a showcase of some of the nation's top teams.

Both squads played in the 16-team White Division, one of seven different tournament brackets. There were 88 teams in the event in all.

## FISHING REPORT

### Curtis Pashelka's Bay Area fishing report



Poor	Fair	Good	Great	Excellent
1. Mothball Fleet — Rains have helped sturgeon bite.	2. Montezuma Slough — A nice place for sturgeon if weather clears up.	3. Middle Ground — Anglers probably need some patience.	4. Pittsburg PG&E — Action should pick up in the coming days.	5. Rio Vista — Place to try for stripers, sturgeon.
	6. Decker Island — Ghost, grass shrimp working for sturgeon.	7. Chain Island — One of the better spots for stripers.	8. Lafayette Reservoir — Trout ranging from 3 pounds to 8 pounds	

## THE BAYS

**SUISUN:** Jordana Santiago of Martinez Bait and Tackle reported good fishing this week, as the rains have helped the sturgeon bite. Access to the elusive fish also has improved with the reopening of one ramp on weekends at the Martinez Marina. The striped bite has dropped off due to the muddy water. Most of the big ones are being caught on grass shrimp/eel combinations. The Martinez pier area has been producing a lot of teenage sturgeon.

George Galletti of Martinez caught a 55-pound, 60.5-inch sturgeon at the East end of the fleet on grass shrimp. Several oversized sturgeon have been caught lately, including an 8-foot, 200-plus-pounder at the sandbar in the fleet. (Yes it was released.) Mahlon Dryden of Fairfield caught the only recorded striped this week near the Tesoro refinery, a 30-inch, 12-pounder with grass shrimp.

## THE RIVERS

**SACRAMENTO RIVER, ANDERSON:** Kirk Portocarrero of Outdoor Adventures Sport Fishing said as of Tuesday, the rain had made the river too muddy to fish. With the rain expected to continue, the river will need time to clear before any fishing can be done. Fishing for king salmon before the rain was far to good in the Balls Ferry area. Anglers were catching chrome king salmon, 15-25 pounds on average, using Flatfish T-50s and T-55s. King salmon season will remain open until Jan. 14.

**SACRAMENTO RIVER, REDDING TO ANDERSON:** As weather allows, fly fishing is producing some nice rainbow trout in the Redding to Anderson area. PTs and Micro May Fly nymphs are working well.

## THE DELTA

David Dutra of Gotcha! Bait and Tackle in Antioch said that not many anglers have been on the water in the last week due to the holiday season and the bad weather. Anglers should try ghost shrimp, grass shrimp, salmon roe and pile worms at Montezuma Slough and the Pittsburg PG&E plant for sturgeon, and sardines, shad and mudduckers for stripers at Chain Island, Middle Ground and Sherman Lake.

Alan Sulkerson of Oakley caught 14 and 5-pound stripers on shad at Chain Island, and John Cook of Oakley caught an 83-pound sturgeon on ghost shrimp on the Sacramento River.

Audie Urbano of Hap's Bait and Tackle said there haven't been many anglers on the water the past few days, but sturgeon can be had at Decker Island and the Power Lines. The Rio Vista Bridge also is a place to try for sturgeon and stripers. Tides have been weak in the morning but have improved at night. The

recent rains should help the sturgeon bite over the next few days.

## THE LAKES

**LAKE CHABOT, CASTRO VALLEY:** The trout seem to have moved from the eastern side of the lake to the western side, coming in from Half Moon Bay and Bass Cove. Shore anglers are getting fish from the Burner and Alder Point. White and orange Power Eggs are still producing the most fish, but Power-Bait and nightcrawlers have produced as well. It's the wrong time of year for bass, but there have been some diehards catching a couple on the dam side of Alder Point. One catfish came in caught from the first dock on the west side of the lake using PowerBait.

**LOS VAQUEROS, BRENTWOOD:** Regular anglers say the trick to catching trout is to be willing to move or change what you're doing, like keeping your line in more or throwing it out farther. If nothing happens within 20 minutes, make another adjustment and go from there. Anglers fishing in the Rock Wall area seem to be having better results with a little strategy and patience. The south cove is still a good spot for recently planted trout, Oak Point is still producing for the determined angler. Worms or PowerBait, or a combination of both, are very common baits on the shoreline. Some anglers who like a challenge use lures such as Kastmasters, Cropplers, Mepps, Panther Martin or Rooster Tails. Anglers trolling have been doing very well, mainly trolling the eastern coves and points. Anglers generally have had good results with green or red flashers used in combination with a lure, wedding rings are becoming a favorite, and another technique is trolling flies with no or very little weight.

Bass action has slowed. Use plastics, poppers, or Rat-Traps. Catfish action is also slow, but anglers should try using chicken livers, or PowerBait's catfish bait (in blood, fish or liver flavors).

**LAFAYETTE RESERVOIR, LAFAYETTE:** Despite the heavy rain, fishing continues to be very good. Anglers are going home with 3-8 pound trout. Trolling with lures in the south end seems to be the most productive. The whole access and Harry's Cove are the docks of choice. Rainbow Runners, Needlefish, PowerBait and worms are attracting the most action.

Ted Spellman Jr. of Walnut Creek caught a limit of trout, including an 8-pounder, Tyler and Gage Rautman caught five trout, ranging from 3-5 pounds, with PowerBait in the south end and Garrett Garcia of Walnut Creek caught two 5-pound trout trolling with a Rapala lure.

— Curtis Pashelka



ED WRIGHT of St. Mary's bounced back from an injury-plagued 2003 season. The Panther used this jump to qualify for the CIF finals, which he won.

## Review

FROM PAGE 1

3A boys soccer at-large and seeding meeting and helped earn his team the first at-large berth into the 3A playoffs. The Yellow Jackets, seeded sixth, opened the playoffs with a 3-1 victory over No. 3 Amador Valley. Berkeley then defeated De La Salle in a shootout and beat Washington 4-1 in overtime to claim the school's first NCS boys soccer title. Felipe Martinez coached the team in Juarez's absence. Juarez returned as coach this season.

**HOOP MEMORIES:** Three local high school girls basketball

teams reached the North Coast Section finals in their respective divisions.

Berkeley won its ninth straight NCS Division I title by defeating Deer Valley 61-39. The Yellow Jackets advanced to the Division I Northern regional semifinals before losing 66-61 to Laguna Creek-Elk Grove.

El Cerrito advanced to the NCS Division III championship game and was edged 41-39 by Moreau Catholic for the title.

St. Mary's advanced to the NCS Division IV championship game, where it met Piedmont for the fourth time last season. The Panthers were 24-4 against teams other than Piedmont last season and 0-5 against Piedmont. The

two teams also faced each other in the Northern regional championship Division IV championship game. Piedmont eventually won the Division IV state title.

**FIRSTS:** It was a year of first for the St. Mary's volleyball programs. In the spring, St. Mary's won its first BSAL boys volleyball title and advanced to the NCS Class IV title match for the first time. In the fall, St. Mary's won its first girls volleyball league title and played in its first North Coast Section Division IV championship match.

Albany won the first boys soccer league title in its history, as the Cougars finished BSAL play last season with a 15-2-1 mark

## Roundup

FROM PAGE 1

the Diamond Division of the West Coast Jamboree at Diablo Valley College on Monday. Cristina Thomas paced St. Mary's with 10 points.

**St. Mary's 71, La Jolla Country Day 45:** The Panthers came back Tuesday with an impressive victory, limiting La Jolla Country Day to eight points in both the second and third quarters at Ygnacio Valley. Johnson paced St. Mary's (5-4) with 19 points. Dunn had 16 points and eight rebounds, and Thomas had 12 points.

**El Cerrito 66, Hogan-Vallejo 46:** The Gauchos received 18 points from Myleka Emerson and 16 points from Turquoise Wilder in a West Coast Jamboree Coral Division first-round game Monday at Mt. Diablo.

**El Cerrito 54, Alhambra 33:** The Gauchos improved to 9-1 with Tuesday's victory in the Coral Division semifinals. Emer-

son had 15 points and seven steals in the victory. Shonetta Crain-Williams had nine points, 12 rebounds and eight blocks for El Cerrito. Wilder added nine points and 10 rebounds.

**Albany 44, Valley Christian-San Jose 43:** The Cougars' Martine Lewis scored a team-high 11 points in her team's first-round victory in the Coral Division of the West Coast Jamboree Monday.

**Marin Catholic 42, Albany 38:** Ashley Greene had a team-high 12 points for Albany in the Coral Division semifinals Tuesday. She also had six rebounds for Albany. Jade Smith-Williams had 11 points for the Cougars.

**Carondelet 63, Berkeley 21:** The Yellow Jackets trailed 20-7 after the first quarter and the score only got worse from there for Berkeley in a West Coast Jamboree Diamond Division first round game Monday at Diablo Valley College. Danesha Wright paced Berkeley with seven points.

**BOYS BASKETBALL**

St. Mary's 59, Mission Bay-

**San Diego 34:** Larry Gurganious scored a game-high 21 points as the Panthers defeated the Buccaneers in the first round of the San Diego Surf N' Slam Slam Division Monday.

**St. Mary's 77, Newport-Washington 39:** The Panthers improved to 9-1 with a convincing victory Tuesday in a semifinal game of the San Diego Surf N' Slam Slam Division Tuesday. Gurganious led all scorers with 23 points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Teammate Tino Rodriguez had 11 rebounds and Jordan Thurston had nine assists for the Panthers.

**Tennynson 73, Albany 35:** Nick Goldenson paced the host Cougars with 10 points Tuesday. Albany fell to 2-10 with the loss.

## BOYS SOCCER

**St. Mary's 3, Campolindo 3:** The Panthers (3-4-3) received two goals by Gavin Taylor and a score by Miguel Paniagua in their tie with the Cougars in the Silver Division of the Winter Soccer Classic at Monte Vista on Dec. 23.

## BRIEFS

### Oaks tryouts

The Oakland Oaks tryouts for its 1500-level teams will be held 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito High School field. Call Fred 524-8960.

### El Cerrito High boys soccer alumni game

The El Cerrito Boys Soccer Alumni game will be held 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito High School field. Call Fred 524-8960.

### Kennedy High seeks coaches

Kennedy High School has openings for ball coach and coach. Call Harv 860-1710.

### Richmond Babe Ruth Baseball signs up

Richmond Babe Ruth Baseball is holding open tryouts for its 1500-level teams will be held 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito High School field. Call Fred 524-8960.

### Berkeley Lions Winter Flag Football

The fifth season of the Berkeley Lions Winter Flag Football team will be held 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the El Cerrito High School field. Call Mike 524-8960.

### Richmond Sharks

The Richmond Sharks team will hold its 2005 season 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Richmond Swim Center. Call Mike 524-8960.

### Umpires needed

Mid-Country Officials needs fast pitch baseball umpires for leagues, high school games in 2005. Training starts in January. Call 510-301-2020.

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## Reviews

FROM PAGE C3

city, extreme yoga.) 1 hour, 25 minutes. C

"SIDEWAYS": Paul Giamatti and Thomas Haden Church are two very different middle-aged men on a road trip through the Santa Barbara wine country in this just-about-perfect movie from director Alexander Payne. Wickedly funny, with some of the best slapstick this year, but poignant, too. — M. Pols. (R: language, some strong sexual content, nudity.) 2 hours, 4 minutes. A

"SPANGLISH": James L. Brooks' sweet look at the culture clash between white, affluent Angelenos and Mexican immigrants doesn't always work, but it has heart. Tea Leoni shines as Deb, a very funny, type-A shrew married to Adam Sandler's nice-guy chef John. Paz Vega plays their saintly maid, whom John lusts after. Brooks relies too much on TV comedy style situations, and he loves his material so much he simply never lets go, leaving his audience without a genuine resolution. — M. Pols. (PG-13: some sexual content and brief language.) 2 hours. B-

"THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE": In this big-screen adaptation of the animated Nickelodeon TV show, SpongeBob is passed up for a management post at the new Krusty Krab 2 restaurant in the underwater village of Bikini Bottom. But the show's quickness and quirkiness are lost on the big screen, and some scenes may be too scary for small children. — C. Lemire. (PG: mild

crude humor.) 1 hour, 30 minutes. C

"VERA DRAKE": Vera (Imelda Staunton) is the cheeriest, most helpful gal in her dingy London neighborhood, circa 1950. She's also a back-alley abortionist, "helping out" hundreds of poor women. Director Mike Leigh handles this incendiary topic with a bare-bones economy that goes straight to the heart of the legal and moral questions, without being overt or strident. Ensemble cast, particularly Staunton, is superb. — M. Pols. (R: adult themes.) 2 hours, 5 minutes. A-

"A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT": Audrey Tautou stars in this odd but charming and stylish movie. The story begins in 1919, two years after Manech's court-martial and death sentence for intentionally wounding himself on the front, then disappearing. The official word is that he's dead. But smart and superstitious Mathilde (Tautou) is not convinced. — C. Chocano. (R: graphic violence, some sexuality and nudity, in French with English subtitles.) 2 hours, 13 minutes. B

"WHAT THE #\$%! DO WE KNOW?": Marlee Matlin stars in this lively exploration of quantum physics that mixes talking-head observations, giddy animation and a mini-drama about a photographer (Marlee Matlin) dealing with a failed love life. — R. Denerstein. (NR) 1 hour, 48 minutes. B

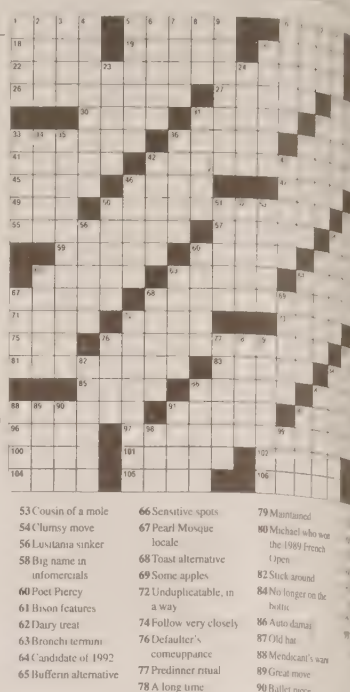
"THE WOODSMAN": Kevin Bacon is constrained and bottled-up as a child molester trying to reintegrate into society. First-time feature by Nicole Kassell doesn't go the distance with its controversial material. Bacon's wife, Kyra Sedgwick, is the blue-collar love interest. — B. Strauss. (R: sex, nudity, language, violence, children in jeopardy.) 1 hour, 27 minutes. C+

## NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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## NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENTS

**BART** — Dec. 31, 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. BART will allow unlimited rides with a special New Year's Eve Flash Pass. The passes will cost \$6 each and should be shown to station agents, as they do not fit in the BART gates; simply pass through the station entrance swing gate.

Available at the BART Customer Service Center at the Lake Merritt BART Station and at Transit Stores in the Embarcadero, Civic Center, Montgomery, Powell Street and Bay Fair stations. 510-464-6000 or [www.bart.gov](http://www.bart.gov)

**ALBATROSS PUB** — New Year's Eve Party, Dec. 31, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Music by the David Jeffrey Fourtet Jazz Quartet, plus a midnight champagne toast and party favors.

**\$5. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473 or [www.albatrosspub.com](http://www.albatrosspub.com)**

**ASHKENAZ** — "New Year's Eve Balkan Bash," Dec. 31, 8 p.m. An all-night celebration with Balkan music and dance, hosted by Edessa. Special guests include Bulgarian musicians Tzvetanka Varmezova, Ivan Varmezov and Kalin Krivov, as well as Brenna MacCrimmon, Eva Salina Pri-mack, Joe Finn and Paul Johnson. The concert features music from Balkan regions such as Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Macedonia and Albania, with Scandinavian and Cajun dance music as well.

**\$20. 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054 or [www.ashkenaz.com](http://www.ashkenaz.com)**

**BLAKE'S ON TELEGRAPH** — "New Year's Eve Party," Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. The evening includes music by The People, and Benzine, balloons, party favors and a midnight countdown.

**\$12 to \$15. For ages 21 and up. 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886 or [www.blakesontelegraph.com](http://www.blakesontelegraph.com)**

**CAFE DE LA PAZ** — "Ring in the New Year," Dec. 31, 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. There will be a "Flamenco Fiesta" with Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos from 9 p.m. to 2 p.m. downstairs in the Party Room, as well as an early show from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Both shows include dinner, wine and cocktails, and are \$35 to \$50. Upstairs in the dining room, prix fixe dinners will be available from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with live guitar music, for \$30 to \$45. There will also be a New Year's Countdown Dinner upstairs in the dining room from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m., with live guitar music and a mid-

nicht champagne toast, for \$40 to \$55.

**1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-0622 or [www.cafedelapaz.net/](http://www.cafedelapaz.net/)**

**CELEBRATIONS ON THE BAY** — "New Year's Eve Cruise," Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. A cruise aboard the Bay Celebration, a two-deck riverboat, with a champagne boarding at 8:30 p.m., appetizers, six course dinner, live rock 'n' roll, blues and jazz by The Circuit Breakers at 9:30 p.m. and elegant decor and favors. Reservations required.

**\$95. Encinal Yacht Club, 1251 Pacific Marina, Alameda, (877) 499-4229 or [www.celebrationsonthebay.com](http://www.celebrationsonthebay.com)**

**CHABOT SPACE AND SCIENCE CENTER** — "Annual New Year's Eve Balloon Drop," Dec. 31, 3:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. The fifth annual balloon drop in the Rotunda will take place at 4 p.m. (midnight Greenwich Mean Time).

Many of the balloons will be filled with prizes. For young children, there will be a separate balloon drop in the Biology Lab. Free with general admission.

**\$13 general; \$9 seniors, students and youths ages 4 to 12; free children ages 3 and under. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-7300 or [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)**

**CLAREMONT RESORT AND SPA** — "Claremont New Year's Eve! A Black-Tie Vegas Affair," Dec. 31. The resort offers four packages for this New Year's Eve. The Vegas Party Package includes a live Motown review, party favors, light show, Times Square ball drop and casino games for \$75. The Dinner Show Package includes a gourmet meal and a Vegas-style dinner show for \$105. The Mystic Silver Package includes the Dinner Show Package and the Las Vegas Party Package for \$155. The Holiday Gold Package includes the Dinner Show Package, the Las Vegas Party Package and overnight accommodations for \$430 for each couple.

**41 Tunnel Road, Berkeley, 510-799-3777, (866) 468-3399, [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com) or [www.claremontresort.com](http://www.claremontresort.com)**

**FREIGHT AND SALVAGE** — "New Year's Eve Bluegrass Celebration," Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Music by High Country plus special guests Dix Bruce and Jim Nunally. The evening features great music plus a delicious buffet,

silly hats and sparkling apple juice at midnight.

**\$24.50. 1111 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-548-1761 or [www.freightandsalvage.org](http://www.freightandsalvage.org)**

**HORNBLOWER YACHTS BERKELEY CRUISE** — "Empress New Year's Eve Cruise," Dec. 31, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Cruise into the New Year aboard the Empress Hornblower. The evening includes an open bar, DJ and dancing, buffet dinner and a deck-side view of the fireworks in San Francisco Bay. Board at 8:00 p.m. Reservations required.

**\$159. Depart from Berkeley Marina DoubleTree Hotel, foot of University Avenue, Berkeley, (888) 467-6256 or [www.hornblower.com](http://www.hornblower.com)**

**JULIA MORGAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS** — "Johnny Steele's Hilarity Hoedown and Jocularly Jambooree," Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. An evening of stand-up comedy, music and sketches featuring Geoff Bolt, Andrew Ault and western music by Red Meat. There will also be surprise guests and a "Year-in-Review" Quiz for contestants in the audience, champagne and a midnight countdown.

**\$28 general; \$22 students and seniors. 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-8542 or [www.juliamorgan.org](http://www.juliamorgan.org)**

**LA PENA CULTURAL CENTER** — "New Year's Eve Dance," Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. Dance in the New Year with Latin rhythms and musical fusions by Jose Roberto Hernandez and special musical guests Saul Sierra, Marco Diaz, Julio Perez, Silvestre Martinez and others.

**\$20 to \$22. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568 or [www.lapena.org](http://www.lapena.org)**

**LAWRENCE HALL OF SCIENCE** — "New Year's Eve Party," Dec. 31, noon to 2 p.m. A special daytime party for youngsters featuring games and festivities from around the world.

**\$7 general; \$5 seniors, students, disabled persons and youths ages 7 to 18; \$3 children ages 3 to 6; free children under age 3. Centennial Drive, University of California, Berkeley, 510-642-5132 or [www.lawrencehallof-science.org](http://www.lawrencehallof-science.org)**

**MINGLES MARTINI AND CHAMPAGNE LOUNGE** — "New Year's Eve Celebration, 8 p.m. to closing. The celebration includes a DJ and dancing all night, party favors, food and a champagne toast. Call for reserva-

tions. \$50 per couple. 370 Embarcadero West, Jack London Square, Oakland 510-835-3900 or [www.minglesoakland.com](http://www.minglesoakland.com)

**PARAMOUNT THEATRE** — "New Year's Eve with Will Downing and special guests Kem and Kenny Lattimore," Dec. 31, 7 p.m. \$45.50 to \$85.50. "The 14th Annual Black Comedy Explosion," Dec. 31, 11:30 p.m. Performances by Earthquake, Sheryl Underwood and Paul Mooney. \$39.50 to \$75.50.

**2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400 or [www.paramounttheatre.com](http://www.paramounttheatre.com)**

**SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** — "Classical Celebration: New Year's Eve," Benjamin Simon conducting, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. Guest artists: Peter Kolkey and Rufus Oliver, bassoon; David Abel, violin; and Lesley Robertson, viola. A program of works by Boccherini, Harold Meltzer and Mozart.

**Free. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, (415) 248-1640 or [www.sfbayareaorchestra.org/](http://www.sfbayareaorchestra.org/)**

**THE SHOTGUN PLAYERS' NEW YEAR'S EVE PERFORMANCE AND DADA PARTY** — Dec. 31, 8 p.m. A performance of Tom Stoppard's "Travesties" is followed by a Dada poetry slam, Dada champagne, Dada hors d'oeuvres, Dada music and merriment Dada-style. Reservations required.

**\$35. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-6500 or [www.shotgunplayers.org](http://www.shotgunplayers.org)**

**SPENGER'S FISH GROTTTO** — Family-Friendly New Year's Eve Dining, Dec. 31. A New Year's Eve dinner and celebration designed for families with children. There will be complimentary meals with a sparkling drink toast for children ages 12 and under and a complimentary champagne toast for parents. Families receive party favors and watch the televised festivities in New York's Times Square at 9 p.m.

**1919 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-845-7771 or [www.spengers.com](http://www.spengers.com)**

**THE STARRY PLOUGH** — New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. Music by Naked Barbies and Pete Best Experience.

**\$12. 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082 or [www.starryploughpub.com](http://www.starryploughpub.com)**

**TILDEN REGIONAL PARK** — "New

Year's Eve Tea Tasting," Dec. 31, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Learn the lore and natural history of tea. Sample a variety of teas and traditional refreshments. Bring your favorite cup and saucer. Reservations required. \$10 to \$12.

**"New Year's Eve Hike," Dec. 31, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Learn New Year's customs and traditions from around the world on this yearly walk. Free.**

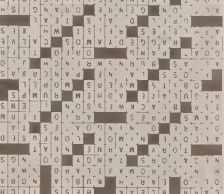
**Entrances off Wildcat Canyon Road and Grizzly Peak Boulevard, Berkeley, 510-525-2233 or [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)**

**USS HORNET MUSEUM** — "New Year's Eve Party," Dec. 31, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. An evening of entertainment and dancing into the New Year to the swing music of Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers on three dance floors on the heated and enclosed hangar deck of the ship. There will be a cash bar, hors d'oeuvres and dessert. Black-tie optional; period attire is encouraged. Proceeds benefit the USS Hornet Museum.

**\$75 to \$125. Pier 3 (enter at Atlantic Avenue), Alameda Point, Alameda, 510-521-8448, ext. 282, or [www.uss-hor-net.org/](http://www.uss-hor-net.org/)**

**YOSHIS** — "New Year's Eve Celebration," Dec. 31, 9 p.m. One long show featuring two sets of music by the Joshua Redman Elastic Band featuring Sam Yabl and Brian Blade.

**\$100. Jack London Square, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200 or [www.yoshis.com](http://www.yoshis.com)**



**USF UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO IN SAN RAMON**

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Make your New Year's resolution a reality. Call us to schedule an advising appointment and graduate with a bachelor's degree in December 2006.

### Degree Completion Options

- Part-time evening
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**ALAMEDA POINT**

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**OVER 800 BOOTHS**

**OF ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES**

**CALIFORNIA'S LARGEST ANTIQUE SHOW**

**ALL ITEMS TWENTY YEARS OR OLDER**

**NEXT SHOW: SUNDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

• COURTESY PARKING LOT SHUTTLE • FREE PARKING •

• 15 FOOD VENDORS • SORRY, NO PETS •

**SHOW HOURS 6 AM - 3 PM**

**ADMISSION PRICES:**

GENERAL 9 AM - \$5

EARLY BUY 7:30 AM - \$10

VENDOR SETUP 6 AM - \$15

**2005 SHOW DATES**

JAN 2 • FEB 6 • MAR 6 • APR 3

MAY 1 • JUN 5 • JUL 3 • AUG 7

SEP 4 • OCT 2 • NOV 6 • DEC 4

**24 HR INFO AT (510) 522-7500 OR**

**WWW.ANTIQUESBYTHEBAY.NET**

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**1st and 2nd Grade Spaces Available**

**Fall 2005**

**Application Deadline**

**January 21, 2005**

**Call for a tour 285-9617**

**116 Montecito Ave. Oakland**







# PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

## Legal Notice

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF CARLOS VILLA ZAPATA**

**CASE NUMBER: 04-115743**  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will and estate of CARLOS VILLA ZAPATA, CARLOS V. ZAPATA, CARLOS V. ZAPATA, who was formerly known as THOMAS HENRY (HOLLIS).

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: ARLENE L. GRANDISON in the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda.

The PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that the court: 1. Admit the will to probate; 2. Appoint ARLENE L. GRANDISON as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

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A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 12, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in Court Room 23, located at 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters of appointment of the personal representative.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - BERKELEY PLANNING COMMISSION

NORTH BERKELEY SENIOR CENTER, 1901 HEARST AVE. (AT MARTIN LUTHER KING), BERKELEY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005 - 7:00 PM

### PROPOSED SEVENTY-EIGHT (78) UNIT CONDOMINIUM PROJECT

FOUR (4) COMMERCIAL UNITS AND SEVENTY-FOUR (74) DWELLING UNITS

TRACT MAP 7538: 2131 DURANT AVENUE, BERKELEY

The Berkeley Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the above matter, pursuant to Section 12.16.04.4 of the BERKELEY SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE (5793-N.S.), on: **Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at 7 p.m. in the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. (at Martin Luther King), Berkeley.** The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

#### PROPOSED PROJECT INFORMATION:

The applicant proposes to create a seventy-eight (78) unit condominium project comprised of four (4) commercial units and seventy-four (74) dwelling units at 2131 Durant Avenue, Berkeley. The units are proposed to be created in a five-story building that is currently under construction.

#### PROJECT APPLICANT:

John Gutierrez, 2550 - 9th Street, Suite 202, Berkeley, CA 94710.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS:

Categorically exempt under Section 15515 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, minor land division.

#### TO COMMENT ON THIS APPLICATION:

Response to this notice can be made verbally at the Public Hearing and/or in writing before the Hearing. The public is advised that the Commission may limit the number of speakers and the length of time allowed to each speaker. Persons wishing to offer testimony are encouraged to submit their comments in writing. Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the **Land Use Planning Division, 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704.** Comments received no later than **5 p.m., Tuesday, January 4, 2005**, will be included in the Commission agenda packet. Comments received thereafter will be submitted to the Commission as supplemental communications at the meeting.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Mr. Stephen Ford, Land Use Planning Division, 2120 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704; PH: (510) 981-7410, FAX: (510) 981-7420, TDD: (510) 981-6903, EMAIL: sford@cl.berkeley.ca.us.

#### LEGAL LIMITATIONS:

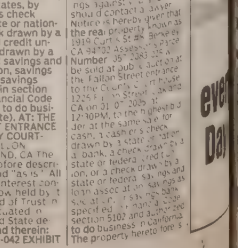
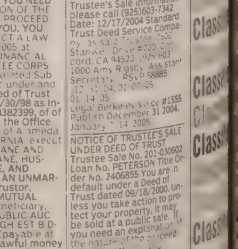
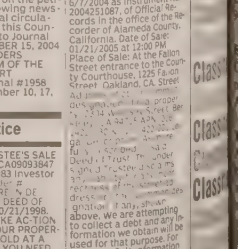
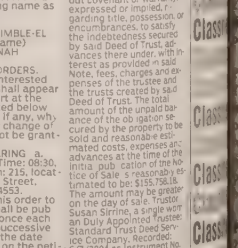
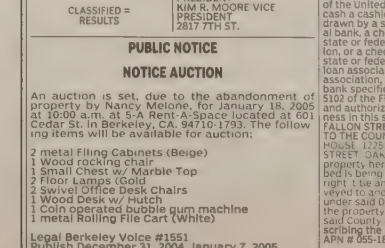
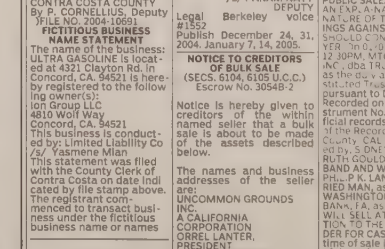
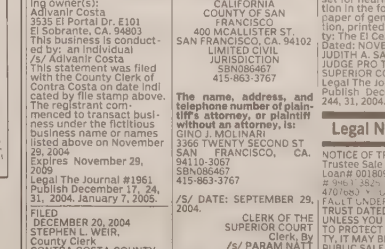
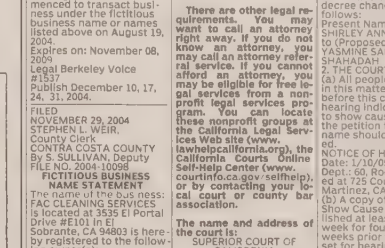
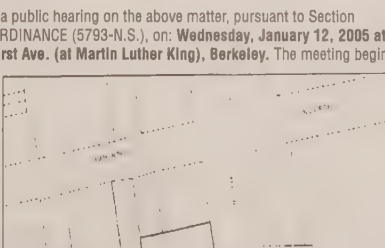
If you object to a project or to any City action or procedure relating to the project application, any lawsuit which you may later file may be limited to those issues raised by you or someone else in the public hearing on the project, or in written communication delivered at or prior to the public hearing. The time limit within which to commence any lawsuit or legal challenge related to these applications is governed by Section 66499.37 of the Government Code, unless a shorter limitations period is specified by any other provision. Under Section 66499.37, any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-judicial decision made by the City must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which such decision becomes final. Any lawsuit or legal challenge, which is not filed within that 90-day period, will be barred.

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#### Legal Berkeley Voice 31557

Published December 31, 2004







BOB PEPPINGS/STAFF

WITH PHOTOS of Bing Crosby watching over him, server Alex Ramirez brings lunch to Lynn Perry of Lafayette and Esther Disheroon of Hayward on Tuesday, just a month after opening day.

FOOD



(overall value rating of our visit; out of a possible 5)

**CUISINE:** California-French with American retro overtones.

**PRICES:** \$\$\$\$ (entrees \$19-\$30).

**HOME RUN:** Grilled Filet Mignon with Black Truffle Demi-Glace.

**STRIKEOUT:** Vegetable garnishes on meat entrees seem like afterthoughts.

**VEGETARIAN:** Ask your server — the kitchen puts together a different meatless entree each night.

KIDS MENU: None.

**DESSERTS:** Pastry chef Todd Moore's plates are whimsical, elaborate and perfect, like the geometric High Society Chocolate Hazelnut Marquise (\$9), rolled in hazelnut praline, or a Caramelized Apple Tart (\$9) in deep-fried phyllo pastry.

**FREEBIES:** A basket of warm, chewy French rolls and gobbs of salted butter.

**BEVERAGES:** There are 42 martinis (all \$8) to commemorate Bing's 42 hit records — though some, like the margarita-in-disguise Remember Me?, are martinis in name only. Sunday, Monday or Always is a fine cosmopolitan with minimal acidity, but stick to Out of Nowhere if you want the classic concoction of gin with a misting of vermouth.

**CHECK:** \$142.14; three appetizers, two entrees, two desserts, two cocktails.

AMBIENCE/ SERVICE

**NOISE LEVEL:** The dining room buzzes with conversation, the bar is louder, from the piano player working the baby grand to a lounge singer doing an unconscious imitation of Bill Murray.

**MOOD:** Mid-20th century Hollywood nostalgia and pervasive Bing Crosby kitsch, in a series of handsome dining rooms crowded mostly with diners old enough to know who Dorothy Lamour is.

**BATHROOMS:** Big; the walls covered with — you guessed it — glossy black-and-whites of Bing; easy wheelchair-access.

**SPECIAL AREA:** If you're a walk-in, perch at one of the high bar tables on the verge of the piano lounge (the full menu is available) to survey the dining room; otherwise, try to reserve one of the deep booths with high arching sides. Good luck.

**TIP:** 20 percent.

**SERVICE POINT:** The servers know what's what on the menu, and seem polished without being obsequious.

an aggressively cheery "Jingle Bells" on the baby grand, or that still from some "Road" picture of Bing and Bob Hope deadpanning in hula skirts.

Which is the ultimate testament to the skill behind Palmer's cooking.

Reach East Bay food writer John Birdsall at jwbirdsall@earthlink.net.

than the Dudums might have been tempted to go retro with the food — a little Brown Derby, a little Trader Vic's. The choice of Frank Palmer, former chef of the Duck Club at the Lafayette Park Hotel, was shrewd. The Dudums know their customers, and what those customers want is meat — lots and lots of meat.

An appetizer Trio of Ahi Tuna (\$12) is a study in the textures of raw, meaty tuna — including the inspired juxtaposition of a cube of ahi on a cube of watermelon, with a micro-greens salad spiked with wasabi. It's good enough to make you forget — just for a second — the piano player weaving

Redman

FROM PAGE C8

a Berkeley boy, even though I live in Oakland. I spend my time grocery shopping. I listen to music at home, watch a movie from time to time, read a book. I go running on the street, that's about it."

One result of his reduced schedule over the past few years is that his primary group, the Elastic Band, is in flux. While Blade was the original drummer who performed on the trio's two 2002 recordings, the Yahl-led "Yaya3" (Loma/Warner Bros.), and Redman's "Elastic" (Warner Bros.), Blade has been unavailable in recent years due to his commitment to saxophonist/composer Wayne Shorter's celebrated quartet.

During the band's last tour about a year ago, Santa Cruz-raised Jeff Ballard held down the drum chair. An upcoming stint at Yoshi's, Tuesday through Jan. 2, marks Blade's first return to the

Elastic saddle in almost two years, though he and Redman worked together extensively last spring in the SFJAZZ Collective. To complicate matters, the Elastic Band recorded a new album, mostly featuring Ballard, that was slated for release this year. But Warner Bros., Redman's label since he made his 1992 debut as a leader, dissolved its jazz division, leaving the saxophonist and his new CD in limbo.

For the performances next week, the trio will be drawing on both its initial "Yaya3" acoustic organ trio repertoire and Redman's groove-oriented Elastic material.

"This gig won't be representing the sound of the band on the album; it's more me, Sam and Brian getting together again, looking at all the music we've played," Redman said. "It's a chance to rediscover this band and this music, with a clean slate. What we do may not be the way the band sounds four months from now when we're really touring."

When the new Elastic Band album does come out, probably around April, it will be on Nonesuch, the famously eclectic label run by Robert Hurwitz that is home to new music icons Kronos Quartet, soprano Dawn Upshaw, Brazilian singer/songwriter Caetano Veloso, alt-rock band Wilco and Broadway star Audra McDonald, to name a few. Besides guitarist Bill Frisell and pianist Fred Hersch, who's no longer associated with the label, Nonesuch has not been involved with many jazz musicians.

"That was my initial question," Redman said. "This is a great label, but is this the right place for me to be as an artist with roots in straight-ahead jazz? Over the past few months we've been building our relationship. Bob Hurwitz is very passionate about music, and he's very opinionated, but his tastes are entirely reasoned and consistent, which is rare in the music business. In the end, I was comfortable that that was the main thing."

Book

FROM PAGE C8

Again — not rocket science. But according to therapists and relationship experts, the popularity of "He's Just Not That Into You" says less about the lack of relationship-ready single men out there and more about the lack of self-esteem among single women.

Like "The Rules," which caused a similar splash in the mid-'90s, "He's Just Not That Into You" tells you how to behave as if you have self-esteem. But it doesn't tell you how to have self-esteem, says Amy Alkon, the nationally syndicated Advice Goddess.

"The single biggest problem in relationships, if I can generalize, is that women have low self-esteem," says Alkon, who recommends reading Nathaniel Branden's "Six Pillars of Self-Esteem." "He should've called. Well, he didn't. He slept with someone else. Well, what are you going to do about it?"

Now ladies, if you're reading this and thinking, "Oh, so it's my fault all guys are deadbeats?" that's not the message here. However, what has been proved, experts say, is that too many women stay with problematic or emotionally unavailable men. And there's a reason for that. Even the almighty Behrendt and his voice-of-reason co-author Tuccillo address it:

From a young age, women are taught to be positive, to look on the bright side and hope for the best. The sexual revolution took that one step further, ensuring that with persistence, hard work and dedication, women could climb the proverbial ladder and find a sensitive, attentive and stable man at the top.

"Men are the ones who used to settle because they were more independent, educated and brought home the bacon," says

Ashkan Karbasfrooshan, a vice president at www.Askmen.com, an online community of 5 million men. "We talk about the eternal bachelor but, partly due to 'Sex and the City,' it's become more about the eternal bachelorette."

Indeed, the roles have shifted. Or perhaps the playing field is just more even now. Either way, Dr. Beaver says, there's also a cultural malady that makes dating a difficult game for America's 86 million singles.

"We're a goal-oriented culture, not a process-oriented culture," Dr. Beaver says. "Unfortunately, it's the opposite that counts in relationships."

Add to that maternal nature, and you've got a recipe for women who can linger too long. As one successful thirtysomething said in a local "He's Just Not That Into You" book club (yes, it's a popular monthly selection among women; many read it with a highlighter pen in hand): "When you have so much love to give, it's hard to pull away, to see the signs."

Unfortunately, Alkon says, too often women hang around in order to change, even "fix" men — from the way they dress to their flaky behaviors.

"We always talk about men treating women like objects, but women sort of try to commoditize men too," she says. "You can't mold them."

Alkon advises her readers to have 'man minimums,' or standards. Remember those? Here are Alkon's: Tall, evolved, man of character. Smart, funny and nice are a given, she says.

So, you've read the book and you agree with everything it says. You will not settle, you tell yourself. But what now? Do you just sit around and wait for the perfect guy — alone?

Yes on the alone part, but a huge no on the waiting around, says Jerusha Stewart, a 46-year-old Oakland brand marketer. Stewart is writing a book titled

"The Last Single Girl in the World," about people who choose to be single. She conducted hundreds of interviews with satisfied singles about their secrets on romance (write a love letter to yourself) and spending holidays alone (create an annual singles party). The book is due this fall from Sourcebooks, Inc.

"People who are single and are happy being single have figured out that there are so many other things they needed to do in the world than spend time in a bad relationship," Stewart says. "Skydiving lessons, pursuing an other degree, learning to bake cookies. There's always something better."

Behrendt and Tuccillo second that. But who wouldn't? Karbasfrooshan says. That's basic dating logic. He isn't surprised by the "He's Just Not That Into You" hype. But he is wary of it.

"Books like that are successful because they play on stereotypes," Karbasfrooshan says. "What makes for an entertainment drama series is not exactly good for an advice book. It's entertaining, but it shouldn't be taken as a de facto manifesto."

Bottom line, he says: "Deep down everyone wants to find someone to share their life with. So just find someone who's on the same wavelength as you."

If that wavelength doesn't include treating you well, perhaps you're the one who's not into you.

Kim Scherer of San Francisco has learned that — and a lot more. "He's Just Not That Into You" didn't just open her eyes about the lawyer "friend." It also taught her a valuable lesson about people and life.

"I think girls don't see the guy as much as they see the potential of Mr. Right," she says. "You can't do that. They'll never be what you think they should be, just what they are right now. They're just themselves. It's been a tough lesson to learn."

Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice	Legal Notice
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - BERKELEY PLANNING COMMISSION  
NORTH BERKELEY SENIOR CENTER, 1901 HEARST AVE.  
(AT MARTIN LUTHER KING), BERKELEY  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005 - 7:00 PM

PROPOSED THIRTY-TWO (32) UNIT CONDOMINIUM PROJECT  
THREE (3) COMMERCIAL UNITS AND TWENTY-NINE (29) DWELLING UNITS  
TRACT MAP 7527: 1809 SHATTUCK AVENUE, BERKELEY

The Berkeley Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the above matter, pursuant to Section 21.16.044 of the BERKELEY SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE (5793-N.S.), on: Wednesday, January 12, 2005, at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave. (at Martin Luther King), Berkeley. The meeting begins at 7 p.m.

**PROPOSED PROJECT INFORMATION:**  
The applicant proposes to create a thirty-two (32) unit condominium project comprised of three (3) commercial and twenty-nine (29) dwelling units at 1809 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley. The units are proposed to be created in a four-story building that is not yet under construction.

**PROJECT APPLICANT:** John Gutiérrez, 2550 - 9th Street, Suite 202, Berkeley, CA 94710.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS:**  
Categorically exempt under Section 15315 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, minor land division.

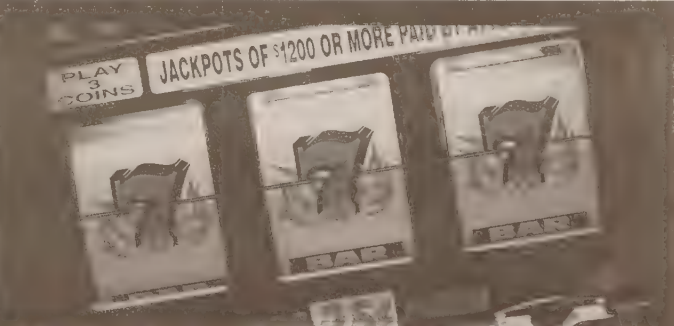
**TO COMMENT ON THIS APPLICATION:** Response to this notice must be made verbally at the Public Hearing and/or in writing before the Hearing. The public is advised that the Commission may limit the number of speakers and the length of time allowed to each speaker. Persons wishing to offer testimony are encouraged to submit their comments in writing. Written comments should be mailed or delivered directly to the Land Use Planning Division, 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704. Comments received no later than 5 p.m., Tuesday, January 4, 2005, will be included in the Commission agenda packet. Comments received thereafter will be submitted to the Commission as supplemental communications at the meeting.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Mr. Stephen Ford, Land Use Planning Division, 2120 Milvia Street, 1st Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704; PH: (510) 981-7410, FAX: (510) 981-7420, TDD: (510) 981-6903, EMAIL: sford@ci.berkeley.ca.us

**LEGAL LIMITATIONS:** If you object to a project or to any City action or procedure relating to the project application, any lawsuit which you may later file may be limited to those issues raised by you or someone else in the public hearing on the project, or in written communication delivered at or prior to the public hearing. The time limit within which to commence any lawsuit or legal challenge related to these applications is governed by Section 66499.37 of the Government Code, unless a shorter limitations period is specified by any other provision. Under Section 66499.37, any lawsuit or legal challenge to any quasi-judicial decision made by the City must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which such decision becomes final. Any lawsuit or legal challenge, which is not filed within that 90-day period, will be barred.

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Local Berkeley Voice #1556  
Publish December 31, 2004



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# Arts & Leisure

Friday, December 31, 2004

## Dreaming of a White Christmas martini ...

By John Birdsall  
CORRESPONDENT

It's a story Hollywood in its glory days found irresistible: A poor kid with brains and talent gets that lucky break that lands him fame and dough and a shot at winning the sassiest dame in the nightclub or the classiest girl in the country club.

Remarkably, Bing Crosby's — the over-the-top new restaurant in Walnut Creek devoted to America's favorite crooner and pipe-smoking leading man — offers a taste of that story line in the unlikelyst of places, a former sporting goods store on the backside of Broadway Plaza. Owned by Jeff and Rick Dudum, the sibling management team behind McCovey's, Walnut Creek's other celebrity-themed restaurant, it has the imprimatur of Bing's widow, Kathryn. This is strictly a big-budget production, a prototype for the Dudums' vision of a whole chain of Crosby's.

That's not the unlikely scenario I thought it was before eating here. I have to admit it: As long as you're in the mood to play the catch-the-Bing-references and there's plenty of available balance on your Visa platinum, the combination of rich meat dishes and top-shelf hooch can go straight to your head.

Oh, sure: All that relentless Bing gets as tiresome as sitting through an AMC weekend movie marathon. From the Bing trivia ("Bingology") bracketing the menu of 42 martinis named after Bing's 42 hit songs, to "White Christmas" on never-ending replay on the flat-screen above the bar, to blown-up Bing in movie stills and publicity shots staring at you from every direction, it's easy to forget that this is a serious restaurant.

But behind all the cornball clutter, the handsome dining rooms never stray from their narrative of Hollywood glamour. Those eyebrow-profile booths are like the booths at the Cocoanut Grove; those soaring walls the right shade of Technicolor eaud-Nile green; that double-faced limestone fireplace captures perfectly the rough-hewn modernism of 1940s Los Angeles.

Order a second white chocolate-and-peppermint-schnapps White Christmas martini (\$8) and warm yourself under a thick blanket of nostalgia.

Take your first bite of Grilled Filet Mignon with Black Truffle Demi-Glace (\$30), and you're suddenly back in the present. The large, slightly flattened slice of filet is the most tender piece of beef I've ever eaten, sensuous and urbane, the haunting taste of black truffle suffusing the meat. This is the apotheosis of country club cooking, seductive and classy. And, just like at the country club, vegetables take strictly second billing: Potato cannelloni stuck with herb sprigs look great and taste OK, but French beans are undercooked and stringy.

Likewise with Pan Roasted Maple Leaf Duck Breast and Confit of Leg (\$26); the flesh of the perfectly grilled breast and long-cooked leg is delicious, but none of the other elements can stand up to it. The duck's bed of wild rice is buttery, the sauce of butternut squash smooth and

See CROSBY'S, Page C7

## BING CROSBY'S

REVIEW VISIT ON DEC. 14

■ **WHERE:** 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek.

■ **HOURS:** Lunch 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; dinner 5-10 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 5-11 p.m. Fridays-Sundays.

■ **PARKING:** Metered street parking at lunch; valet parking at dinner.

■ **CONTACT:** 925-939-2464; [www.bingcrosbysrestaurant.com](http://www.bingcrosbysrestaurant.com).

■ **DATE OPENED:** Nov. 17, 2004.

■ **PRINCIPALS:** Rick and Jeff Dudum, owners; Jay Lifson, general manager; Frank Palmer, executive chef; Todd Moore, pastry chef; Victor Sisto, sommelier.

■ **RESERVATIONS:** For any size party.

■ **PRIVATE PARTIES:** A curtained-off area of the lounge, called the library, holds 15 guests; the wine room accommodates 32.



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO/STAFF

**THE BOOK'S ADVICE** for women: If a guy doesn't want to commit, or his attention is easily swayed, it's not that he has intimacy issues: He's just not that into you.

## Women are into this book

■ **No-excuses 'He's Just Not That Into You'** gets right to the heart of dating distress

By Jessica Yadegaran  
STAFF WRITER

Kim Scherer thought she had found The One. He was a lawyer, just like her. He was fun, had a good heart and invited her to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas with his family.

They were intimate and had been dating for a year when Valentine's Day rolled around. To Scherer's surprise, the guy didn't do a thing. No flowers. No present. Not even a card.

"For crying out loud, he didn't even call," recalls Scherer, 30, of San Francisco. When she confronted him about it, he casually responded, "We're just friends, aren't we?"

Scherer was crushed, but has since found solace in "He's Just Not That Into You," the best-selling, no-excuses guide to understanding the male dater by Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo. The book is a phenomenon: Launched in September with a printing of 30,000, "He's Just Not That Into You" (Simon & Schuster; \$19.95) is now in its 14th printing. The new relationship bible has revitalized female singletons, with 1.2 million copies sold and a major motion picture in development at New Line Cinema.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Ladies, are you wondering where you stand with that guy you're seeing? Quit asking your girlfriends; they tend to sugarcoat matters to spare your feelings. Here are five surefire signs, according to authors Greg Behrendt and Liz Tuccillo, that he's just not that into you.

■ **He's not calling you.** We don't care if he's chief of emergency medicine. He's not too busy to pick up the phone and tell you you're beautiful. And no, he didn't lose your number scuba diving.

■ **He's not dating you.** Hanging out (and making out) at home does not constitute dating. If you're not getting dressed up and leaving the house,

there's something very wrong.

■ **He only wants to see you when he's drunk.** Sure, a little vino is fine for the first few dates. Eases the nerves. But if he's still getting sauced a month in, for the love of the gods, walk.

■ **He's breaking up with you.** Men mean what they say, so listen to them. You're not taking a break. If he doesn't want you, he's an ignorant fool. So go find someone who does. As Behrendt is fond of saying, "Don't waste the pretty."

■ **He's having sex with someone else.** We won't even justify this with a response. Dump him and run, woman.

— Jessica Yadegaran



"The book really opened my mind," Scherer says. "It made me realize that some guys just might not be that into me and it's not respectful to myself to stay with them. I'm not 'wasting the pretty.'"

In other words, she's not settling anymore. "Don't waste the pretty" is the mantra of Behrendt, stand-up comedian and former consultant on HBO's "Sex and the City" (Tuccillo was an executive story editor for the show). In fact, the concept was born in a "Sex" episode featuring Miranda, the show's red-haired lawyer, in a typical mixed-messages situation: After a great date she invited the guy up to her apartment and he turned her

down. (One of the chapters: He's Just Not That Into You If He's Not Having Sex With You.)

Behrendt, who takes on the role of brutally honest "average male" in the book, encourages other self-possessed, not-settling actions; namely, find out early on where a relationship is heading (something Scherer didn't do for fear of appearing too eager), and the big one: Stop making excuses for men. If a guy doesn't call, it's not because he's too busy. If he doesn't want to commit, it's not because he has intimacy issues.

He's just not that into you. Move on.

Sounds simple, right? So why are women, including Oprah,

touting it as the new "Mars and Venus" gospel?

"It cuts through all the psychological gobbledygook and gets to the bottom line," says Dan Beaver, a Walnut Creek marriage and family therapist and Cal State Hayward psychology professor.

Moreover, the book's dating stories — told through desperate letters to Behrendt — and its nonsense "You go, girl!" tone not only validate readers' experiences, but also give them hope that if they dump Mr. He-Doesn't-Treat-Me-Very-Well, they're that much closer to finding Mr. Now-That's-What-I'm-Talking-About!

See BOOK, Page C7

## Saxophonist jazzed to live, perform in area

By Andrew Gilbert  
CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes, home is where you go to lick your wounds.

After a decade of thriving in New York City's fast lane, the Berkeley-raised tenor sax star Joshua Redman decided to return to the East Bay in early 2002. Rather than a triumphant homecoming, he was seeking refuge at a moment of personal crisis, following the dissolution of his marriage.

"I was in bad shape," said Redman, 35, during a recent conversation at an Albany cafe. "Breaking up with my wife is the worst thing I've ever gone through. At the time I didn't think about it like that, but I wasn't prepared for failure, not on that deep and profound an emotional and spiritual level."

Redman opened a six-night stand at Yoshi's on Tuesday with his Elastic Band featuring drummer Brian Blade and Sam Yahel on organ and keyboards. The gig includes the concluding spot on National Public Radio's New Year's Eve coast-to-coast broadcast.

While Redman hasn't been undercover, the Yoshi's run does mark his re-emergence after several quiet years. Turning inward, he came back to the Bay Area seeking succor among family and friends while throwing himself into his job as artistic director of San Francisco Jazz Organization's rapidly expanding spring

### IF YOU GO

■ **WHO:** Joshua Redman

■ **WHEN:** 8 and 10 p.m. today and Saturday; 2 and 8 p.m. Sunday.

■ **WHERE:** Yoshi's, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland

■ **HOW MUCH:** \$26-\$100

■ **CONTACT:** 510-238-9200, [www.yoshis.com](http://www.yoshis.com)

concert season. He didn't give up his career as a performer, but he eased off of his bandleading duties, focusing instead on special projects and sideman work with players such as guitarist/composer Kurt Rosenwinkel.

As the months passed, Redman always assumed he was going to return to New York, where he had become addicted to the 24/7 pace and constant flow of cultural stimulation. But last summer he experienced something of an epiphany when it dawned on him that he was happier navigating the East Bay's calm than Manhattan's constant bustle. Of course, it doesn't hurt that he's spent almost as much time in New York as California, so it's not as if he's locking any doors.

"I realized that at heart I'm a simple person and I like to live simply," Redman said. "This is a good place to do that, and yet still be culturally stimulated. I'm still



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE 2000

"I REALIZED THAT AT HEART I'm a simple person and I like to live simply," says Joshua Redman.



## Play cross-cultural bon

**T**HEATREPHILES are continuing to bring plays about the of nationality, ethnicity, identity to the Bay Area. The second of its series, the U.S. premiere of Verdecchia's "Frontier" (American Theatre Company) is now in the Bay Area.

It opens Friday, Jan. 21, at the Mills College Theater. The Sunday run through Jan. 23, 2005, is also solo piece by Ben Ortega, writer, actor and comedian. First performed in Toronto in 1996.

In the play, Verdecchia's "Frontier" from his adopted country, a journey between across countries and within communities.

The borders he came not just the 49th parallel Rio Grande, but where "Latinos" come into contact with dominant forms of American culture. Like author, Peruvian-born Verdecchia, the play explores Latino embrace of the great American dream.

"Frontier" is directed by long-time Bay Area director, Wilma Bonilla, who worked with the San Francisco Mime Troupe and, recently, at Teatro Vista Jose with Luis Sagor.

"Given its inherent of the U.S. role in the Chafar, says, 'perhaps surprising the play has been performed in the Bay Area audience. ... And this play is the usual California view of Anglo-Spanish relations. Its view is wide, and that's why it's right for TheatrePhiles!'"

Call 510-436-5083 for prices and discounts. **FUN WRAPUP STORY:** It's always hard to find just the right words to describe the "Cabaret," opening Jan. 14, at the Pinole Playhouse, 601 Third St. Pinole, without making sound like a turnoff.

Bittersweet. Shadow. Derivative. original. All applicable degrees. And it's a clash of opposites that to give this 1966 Broadway's walloping dynamite.

"Cabaret" did not auspicious Broadway. Here was a story about dark rise of the Nazis, the mad jazz of the Berlin night club, the odor of spurious gay many slipped into war.

It was an era, when audiences were comfortable smuggling fuzzy fare as "Cabaret" and "My Fair Lady."

"Cabaret" is a story John Van Druten, "era," which appeared earlier, itself a dramatic British author, Broadway's "Berlin Stories."

Renowned Broadway Hal Prince envisioned musical version in response to the movement in the 1960s. Prince hired John Van Druten to write lyrics, based on books. Joe Masterpiece wrote book. And that's how it came into being. Lyrics, and has proven exceedingly long.

Janet O'Brien, the Pinole Community production, and it is a great place to see the cabaret seating. There are already.

These folks always and hit the mark. It's a high rate. Plays Friday, Jan. 21, at 8 p.m. some Saturday, Jan. 22, at 8 p.m. from Jan. 14 to Jan. 15.

General admission \$12 for seniors and with ID. Call 510-436-5083 for more info.

Reach Jack Tucker at [jtucker@comcast.net](mailto:jtucker@comcast.net) 262-2768.

See REDMAN, Page C7



# Friday Auto Plus

cars.com

Advertising supplement to The Montclairian, The Piedmonter, The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, The Alameda Journal

Friday, December 31, 2004

Section

## New Chevy Silverado pickup loaded with comfort and joy

BY TOM KEANE  
MOTOR MATTERS

I used to dread the thought of reviewing a pickup truck because of the jarring, noisy ride. Today it's a different story, especially with the 2005 Chevy Silverado.

Driving around in the Silverado five-passenger extended cab truck was very enjoyable as it contained loads of amenities that I don't always find in cars. For example, my tester included an XM Satellite radio, allowing me to listen to my favorite station that I also listen to at home. Had I wanted, I could have tuned in the AM/FM radio with a sub-disc CD changer, plus a Bose speaker system. Another listening pleasure was the sound of the engine under hard acceleration. This Silverado, an LT model 1500 series with four-wheel drive, is powered by a V8 Vortec engine producing 295 horsepower and a whopping 335 foot pounds of torque and is capable of towing up to 8,000 pounds.

While on the subject of sound, I marveled at how quiet the cab

was, similar to the quiet atmosphere in an upscale sedan. Another feature that grabbed my attention was the wealth of information that was available to me at the touch of a button located on the steering wheel and displayed in on the instrument panel. The data included such things as the life expectancy of the oil, the miles I've driven and the miles I had left in the gasoline tank. Such information is not exclusive to the Silverado — other vehicles feature such data, too, but it's obvious Chevy is marketing this truck both north and south of our borders as all this information is available in Spanish and French. Perhaps this explains why the Silverado is General Motors' best selling vehicle. The pickup had Passenger Sensing System that turns off the airbag on the passenger's seat if it is not occupied, indicating that it is "off" in the rearview mirror. Another feature: I purposely did not fasten my seatbelt, and was advised of my error with a message in the dash panel. The same message appears if the

### KEANE ON WHEELS

front seat passenger fails to buckle up.

There are many safety features to be found throughout this pickup, but the one that is most helpful is OnStar. With the use of GPS satellite, someone knows exactly where the truck is at all times and can bring rescue aid should there be an accident. Or if I need directions, a touch of a button brings immediate hands-free response.

Although my tester didn't have this feature, QuadraSteer is available. If you require making turns in a tight area, QuadraSteer allows the rear wheels to turn in the opposite direction of the front wheel, which reduces the turning circle to 37 feet. Otherwise, the curb-to-curb turn requires 47 feet.

Climbing up into the driver's seat was an easy task because of a step rail at the base of the door line. I didn't spend much time in the rear seat, although I used it



MOTOR MATTERS

2005 CHEVY SILVERADO has car comforts and truck capacities.

frequently for hauling groceries and other packages. I did note, however, that the legroom for the rear seat passengers is adequate, but the center passenger should be a small person as there is no center headrest.

The ride is so comfortable I had to remind myself that I was driving a truck, not a soft-riding sedan. As for the truck bed, I looked at it but

had no use for it. But if I were in the market for a pickup, I'm not sure if I'd buy this model at a cost of \$36,710, or choose a less expensive one. Chevy offers enormous choices ranging from V6 to V8 engines and all sorts of seating capacities. One thing for sure, I'll never again dread test-driving a pickup truck — if it's a Silverado — for it compares to a quality sedan.

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## Audi A6 features new-tech engine

### DOWN THE ROAD

BY HERB SHULDINER  
MOTOR MATTERS

Competing head-on with luxury cars such as the BMW 5 Series and Mercedes-Benz E-Class models is no easy task. It not only requires smart design and luxurious interior appointments, but also state-of-the-art engineering. The 2005 Audi A6 has all of the requirements



MOTOR MATTERS

2005 AUDI A6 has a new high efficiency fuel injection system.

See AUDI A6, Page 2

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# Kawasaki's Vulcan 2000: A highway cruiser of major proportions

WHEELING TODAY

BY ARV VOSS  
MOTOR MATTERS

Kawasaki, in describing its Vulcan 2000, claims that "size isn't everything: it's the only thing." That, of course, depends upon your perspective. There is absolutely no question, however, that the Vulcan 2000 is one really big bike. It is powered down the road by a 1,933cc (125 cubic inches) liquid-cooled V-Twin—the largest production V-Twin cruising motor in the history of motorcycling. The cylinder bore measures more than 4 inches, with the forged-pistons powering through a stroke that is close to 6 inches long. The big (and beautiful) motor cranks out 141 foot pounds of torque to the 200mm x 16-inch wide rear tire, which is belt driven.

The Vulcan 2000 borders on intimidating at first glance, due to its seemingly immense mass. I actually put off riding it until last at

a full line Kawasaki introduction held at Infineon Raceway in conjunction with the AMA Superbike race because of its gargantuan presence.

Please don't misunderstand. The Vulcan 2000 is a gorgeous and beautifully proportioned cruiser, executed along traditional lines. It is well balanced, particularly at freeway cruising speeds and higher. Slow speed maneuvers, on the other hand, require the rider's undivided attention and focus. If you have to put a foot down (assuming you can reach the ground), there's a lot of weight to steady. Actually, getting the bike up off the unusually short side stand can be a genuine chore for those who happen to border on vertically challenged. Once upright and moving, however, the more than 750-pound machine is surprisingly easy to control, despite its nearly 27-inch seat height.

On a group ride for motorcycling journalists, I rode a Nomad 1500 from Sonoma to Point Reyes, Calif., where we met an associate who had ridden a Z1000 home the night before. There were other ride participants who wanted to try the Z1000 on for size, leaving only the Vulcan 2000 for my friend to ride.

Kawasaki, in describing its Vulcan 2000, claims that "size isn't everything: it's the only thing." That, of course, depends upon your perspective. There is absolutely no questioning, however, that the Vulcan 2000 is one really big bike

He is not particularly tall, and had never ridden a cruiser before. That notwithstanding, he was unable to get the Vulcan beast off of its side stand by himself, and even when the bike was upright, his toes barely reached terra firma. Not being at all comfortable with the situation, he humbly asked if I would consider trading for the return leg of the trip. Having ridden it the day before, I

graciously agreed, and cruising through the redwoods was exhilarating at the very least.

Back to the bike's looks. It is appealing from virtually any angle, particularly from a three-quarter, right side frontal view, where the unique combination headlamp with its conventional bulb, as well as a triple-projector beam cluster, the over and under, staggered shotgun-style side pipes and the impressive motor are all visible at once. It provides a clean appearance in its stock form with just the right amount of chrome, while the sleek, flangeless 5.6-gallon fuel tank design offers a custom flavor.

My test Kawasaki Vulcan 2000 was painted in a monotone Pearl Glacial Blue, and was base priced at \$14,499. The only option was the Kawasaki Fire & Steel accessory windshield which brought the sticker up to \$14,879. There are a host of other Fire & Steel accessories available to individualize or customize one's Vulcan 2000, including custom paint packages.

SUMMARY: The Vulcan 2000 cruiser has more than enough power for instant bursts of speed in any of the five sequential gears provided by the smooth transmission. The cross-drilled dual-disc front



KAWASAKI VULCAN 2000 is a very big bike.

brakes and single-disc out back allows for reining the big steed in, either gradually or in an emergency scenario. The ride quality is comfortable, soaking up bumps without being overly compliant. The exhaust note is pleasing without being overly raucous (if there is such a thing). If there is a downside at all, aside from the short side stand, it is that the bike tends to pull forward even with the clutch disengaged when it's cold, so making sure it's in neutral is advised. The Vulcan 2000, though displaying a hardtail look with a huge adjustable rear shock concealed behind the engine and beneath the seat, is equipped with several modern conveniences, not the least of which are: The ability to remove the ignition key from the on-position; self-canceling turn signals; a dipstick that enables one to check the oil level while astride the bike; and ideally positioned handlebars for optimum control. If big is your bag, the Kawasaki Vulcan 2000 certainly won't disappoint.

# Saturn Ion Redline, more practical than a Mini

BY JON ROSNER  
EDITOR, SPECIAL SECTIONS  
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

My first thoughts were Saturn Ion, boring, transportation appliance as thrilling to drive as a Toyota Camry, but this was a Redline. It arrived in electric blue with a few body kit add-ons, humm, not bad. The last test car to grace these premises was the Mini Cooper MC 40, so comparisons between the two were inevitable. The dash controls in the Ion are in the center of the dash like the Mini and surprise, well laid out, easier to see than on the Mini and useful. Fit and finish, this one goes to the Saturn, there were a number of small items that did not fit snugly in the Mini like the trunk liner and the headrests. Coverings fit properly in the Saturn while quality of materials used were on par to the Mini in terms of texture and design.

While we are being heretical, the Recaro seats in the Saturn are superb in terms of fit and finish. They are more comfortable with better leg and back support than the Mini's but oh the seats looked so pretty in red and black on the Mini. Interior summary—the Mini was cool and stylish but a little too stylish, busy and annoying. The heater, ventilation and radio controls in the Saturn were well within reach. On the Saturn the air conditioner was ice chest cold, the radio had great reception and the clarity of the sound was quite good.

After one week of climbing into the Mini to latch the kids in and release them my back was very happy with the switch to the Ion Redline, flipping open that rear hinged back door and loading the kids was an absolute snap, a number of people even stopped to watch us open the doors and load up after the usual run to Trader Joes.

The exterior of the Ion does not tickle ones fancy the way the Mini does, but the plastic door showed no signs of the car some clown had drifted into the Ion while we were shopping either. Something that would have required a lot of explanation about a dent had we been in the Mini that day.

Nothing in its class could touch the Mini on the track, grip and control were phenomenal, the Saturn Ion Redline was also superb, but not quite on rails like the Mini. On the street you couldn't push either car anywhere near those limits. But it was no fun to run over rain grooved roads in the Mini as it danced to its own tune, trampling to a nasty degree. The ride on the Saturn was stiff but not as jolting as the Mini and had the same snap responsiveness for lane changing. Give this round to the Saturn for greater stability and greater comfort with no

appreciable loss in handling. The turning radius on both cars was very good and a big improvement for Saturn from earlier models that required a football field to turn around. The clutch take up on the Saturn was also appreciably better, much easier to modulate for a smooth and quick launch, with more solid torque at the bottom end than the Mini while having the same instant response and power to fly around corners at will in any gear.

Drawbacks of the Saturn? The C pillar needed to support those rear-hinged mini-doors is huge and the blind spot is one and a half cars long. The styling somewhat boring. The paint scratches easily, and while the trunk is cavernous, even with the seats folded, getting a bicycle in is a two person operation.

The whole Saturn Ion Redline concept is really quite impressive. We averaged 25 miles per gallon over the 250 mile usable range. The Saturn Ion Redline was loaded with features like cd player, remote power locks and remote trunk release. The chassis was well tuned and very competent. The Ecotec engine is a proven

commodity as it is almost the same as the long-lived versions powering today's Saabs. Compared with the other "tuner cars" the Saturn Ion Redline is much more usable with its more thoughtful and practical design.

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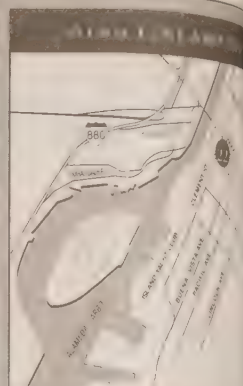
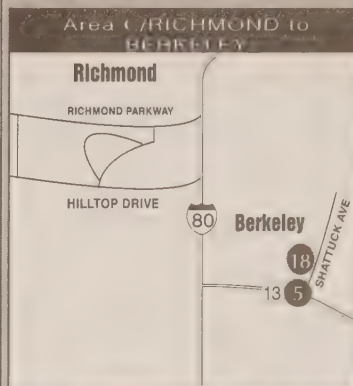
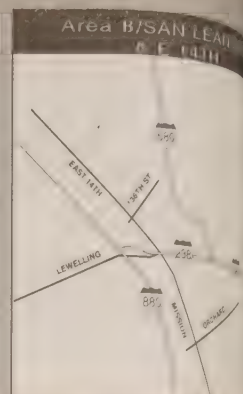
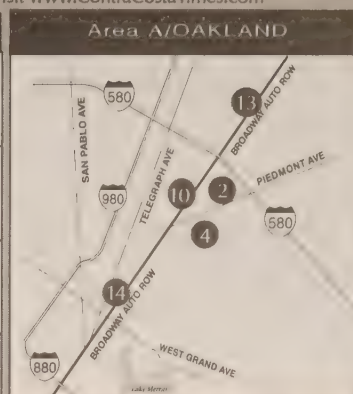
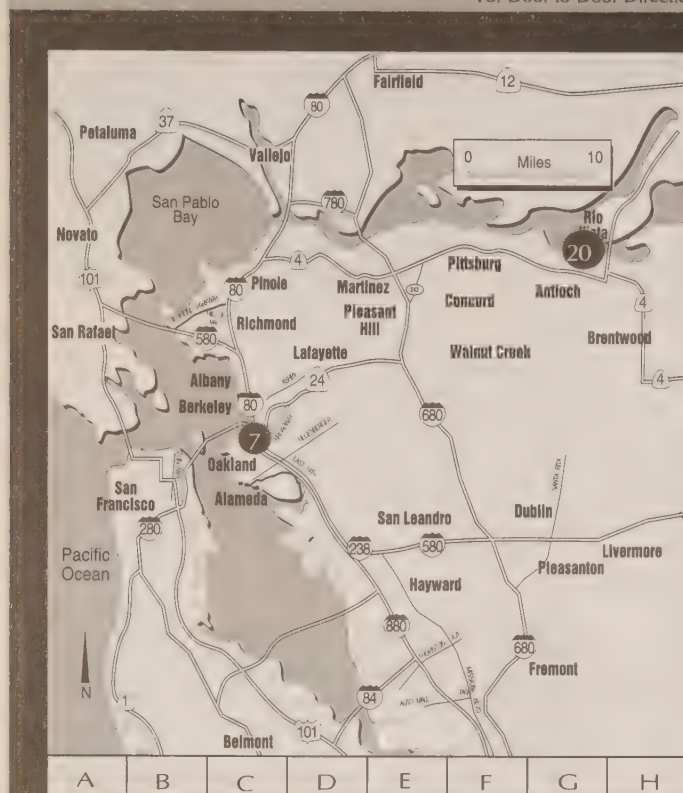
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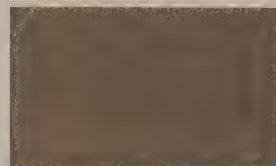
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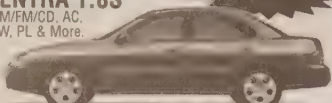




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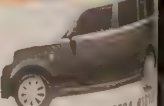
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# Acclaimed Chicago chefs share their talents

■ Their (sometimes) intimidating recipes are in a trio of new cookbooks

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Souvenirs from restaurants used to mean matchbooks, swizzle sticks, cocktail napkins and glossy candid shot tableside. Today, restaurant souvenirs include books.

It seems as if every big-name chef or high-profile restaurant has to have at least one cookbook to tout. Usually big, glossy and costly, the books often seem less about replicating some prized dish at home as they are about attempting to put forth the essence of the restaurant on a printed page.

This year, three Chicago chefs have written new books: Tony Mantuano of Spiaggia; Rick Tramonto and Gale Gand of Tru and Charlie Trotter of Charlie Trotter's. Rick Bayless of Frontera Grill and

Topolobampo also co-authored a new book with his daughter called "Rick and Lanie's Excellent Kitchen Adventures" (Stewart, Tabori and Chang, \$29.95), but it differs from these others in format and mission and is not included in this roundup.

## Spaggia

"The Spiaggia Cookbook" By Tony and Cathy Mantuano Chronicle Books, \$40

Spiaggia, at Oak Street and Michigan Avenue, has been widely acclaimed as Chicago's finest Italian restaurant and a four-star jewel in the city's crown. Executive chef Tony Mantuano can take credit for much of its praise, with his rigorous attention to authenticity and detail.

Now Mantuano, with his wife, Cathy, have written "The Spiaggia Cookbook." They wanted to "invite you to share the strategies that have made Spiaggia unique," as the Mantuanos wrote in the book's in-

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roduction. Like many chefs' books, this one would be hard to cook from for most home cooks. Ingredients like Kobe beef, fennel pollen and white truffle paste are hard to come by for all but the most dedicated. Resourceful and ambitious gourmands can track them down via the Internet, but they're hardly local grocer items.

But that's not the point. Despite its title, this is a book about understanding Mantuano's food style, not duplicating it. One of the mighty pleasures of cookbooks is mentally tasting—and sometimes salivating over—the recipes. When a chef writes a book, the reader looks forward with double pleasure: once to tasting the dish with the imagination, and then, with a deeper understanding, enjoying the chef's work at the restaurant.

The Mantuanos' book features Jeff Kauck's intimate, nearly erotic, photos of many dishes. In a photo of grilled baby octopus with rice beans and capers, a tiny insect blemish dots an argula leaf. Like a birthmark on otherwise flawless skin, the defect defines the perfection. Kauck's photos are a wonder unto themselves.

"The Spiaggia Cookbook" won't substitute for dinner at the elegant restaurant. It will, however, help a reader understand why Tony Mantuano wins such accolades.

—Robin Mather Jenkins

**LEFT: EXECUTIVE CHEF TONY MANTUANO** and his wife, Cathy, have written, "The Spiaggia Cookbook."



## Party

FROM PAGE 1

On average, 20 people consume 10 drinks at a cocktail party and 40 drinks at a full dinner party. Here are some rules of thumb to remember before stocking a bar at home:

**For liquor-based drinks:** A 750 ml bottle will make about 16 cocktails. A liter bottle will make about 22 cocktails. A 1.5-liter bottle will make about 39 cocktails.

**For wine drinkers**  
Plan on five 750 ml bottles per 10 people (about 5 servings per bottle).

**For beer drinkers**  
Plan to have 5 six-packs containing 12-ounce cans for every 10 people.

**For a full bar**  
If you're splurging on a full bar, have vodka, rum, gin, Scotch, bourbon, blended whiskey, tequila and mixers such as orange juice, grapefruit juice, cranberry juice, tomato juice, pineapple juice, lemon or lime juice and carbonated beverages. Flavoring ingredients such as grenadine, sugar and simple syrup are also needed.

The easiest choice for liquor drinks, if you don't want to play bartender all evening, is to hire someone to prepare the drinks or choose one cocktail, prepare it ahead of time and let guests serve themselves.

**IMPORTANT:** Don't forget to have a guest bedroom ready or rides lined up for guests who overimbibe. Source: [www.fabulousfoods.com](http://www.fabulousfoods.com)

### REINDEER MARTINI

Serves: 1 / Preparation time: 5 minutes / Total time: 5 minutes  
Ice  
2 ounces vodka  
1 ounce Frangelico  
1 ounce coconut rum, such as Maibu

Splash of half-and-half  
Mexican bark-style cinnamon sticks  
Cherry

Place ice in a cocktail shaker. Add the vodka, Frangelico, rum and half-and-half. Shake and strain the mix into a martini glass.

Insert the cinnamon bark pieces into a cherry to fashion antlers and garnish the edge of the glass.

Adapted from [www.fabulousfoods.com](http://www.fabulousfoods.com).

Tested by Susan Selasky for the Detroit Free Press Test Kitchen.

Per serving: 165 calories (1 percent from fat), trace of fat (0 grams sat. fat), 6 grams carbohydrates, 0 grams protein, 1 mg sodium, 0 mg cholesterol, 1 mg calcium, 0 grams fiber.

### HOLIDAY POMTINI

Serves: 1 / Preparation time: 10 minutes / Total time: 10 minutes  
Ice

1 ounce freshly squeezed pomegranate juice (See Cook's note) or 100-percent pomegranate juice  
1 ounce orange vodka  
1 ounce peach schnapps  
Splash of fresh orange juice  
Equal parts ground cinnamon and granulated sugar for garnish  
Spiraled orange rind for garnish

Place the ice in a cocktail shaker. Add the pomegranate juice, vodka, schnapps and orange juice. Shake all the drinking ingredients with the ice to chill.

Serve in a martini glass prepared as follows: On a shallow plate, mix equal parts of ground cinnamon and sugar.

Swipe a slice of orange around

the rim of a martini glass to moisten it. Dust the glass rim with the sugared cinnamon mixture. Strain the martini into the glass and garnish with a spiral of orange rind.

**COOK'S NOTE:** This cocktail can be made with freshly squeezed juice from a pomegranate or 100-percent pomegranate juice, available in the produce area of some grocery stores. To juice the pomegranate, cut it in half (as you would a grapefruit) and squeeze the juice using a citrus reamer or juicer. Pour the mixture through a cheesecloth-lined strainer or sieve. One large pomegranate will produce about 1/2 cup of juice.

Adapted from [www.pomworld.com](http://www.pomworld.com).

Tested by Susan Selasky for the Detroit Free Press Test Kitchen.

Per serving: 187 calories (0 percent from fat), 0 grams fat (0 grams sat. fat), 22 grams carbohydrates, 0 grams protein, 0 mg sodium, 0 mg cholesterol, 1 mg calcium, 0 grams fiber.

### HOLIDAY SPICED CASHEWS

Serves: 16 / Preparation time: 10 minutes / Total time: 15 minutes

Make these spiced nuts a few days in advance and store them in an airtight container.

1 pound roasted, unsalted cashews  
2 tablespoons fresh rosemary, finely chopped  
1/2 teaspoon chili powder  
1/2 teaspoon mustard powder  
2 teaspoons brown sugar  
1 tablespoons kosher salt  
1 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

## Tru

"Tru"

By Chef Rick Tramonto, with Gale Gand and Mary Goodbody Random House, \$35

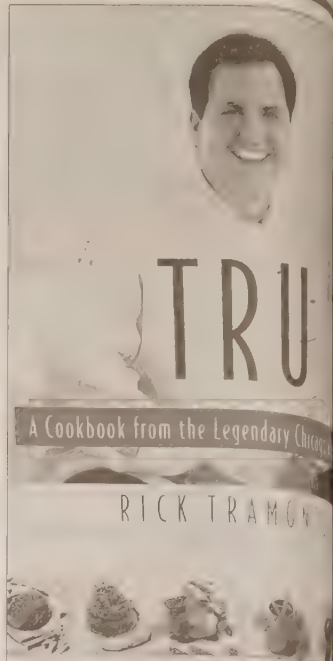
Billed as "a cookbook from the legendary Chicago restaurant," the book "Tru" rarely strays from that premise.

Which can be good or bad, depending on your point of view.

Those who really love Tru, the landmark restaurant, now in its fifth year and one of Chicago's best, will also love having this tangible memento of what was likely the meal(s) of their lives. They may even find the dishes they enjoyed at-table in the book, such as the superb curried cauliflower soup (easy to make, especially without the foam topping served at the restaurant).

A number of recipes are do-able, particularly if you are willing to trim away at the bells and whistles. Tramonto makes that easy by breaking down the big plating into smaller, more accessible parts. The voice, very much kept in the first person, is smooth and encouraging—you may find yourself, like I did, actually thinking a ragout made with 31 vegetables was something to whip up for a weekend lunch.

Keep remembering that this book is not for beginners or even middling amateurs. You've got to have good sources for food products, enough food smarts to know which components in a recipe can be omitted or altered and a large pocketbook, especially if you want to troll the foie gras chapter. The book speaks to fellow chefs, culinary students and very ambitious



**THIS YEAR, THREE CHICAGO CHEFS** have written "Tru," is written by chef Rick Tramonto with Gale Gand and Mary Goodbody.

home cooks/groups. A general reader may find him- or herself struggling with the recipes.

Both Tramonto and Gand, a celebrity pastry whiz wisely given her own dessert chapters to work with, are very much "on" in the cookbook. They include a lot of surface information but nothing very deep about what makes them tick.

The book's layout doesn't enhance the Tru story. (A truer glimpse of the restaurant's airy, Zen-like vibe can be found at the Web site, [trurestaurant.com](http://trurestaurant.com).) Pages are split by thin rules that funnel the recipes into long blocks of type.

Ingredients are listed in a small, italic type that will make middle-aged readers rummage for a mag-

nifying glass. The shots are gorgeous, but the page. Other photos are nearly as successful. A restaurant this needs, deserves, and

## Working more

"Working More" with Charlie Trotter By Charlie Trotter Ten Speed Press In his 10th book, Trotter continues his cooking to the world's top musicals. See [COOKBOOK](http://COOKBOOK)

12 pita bread halves, pre-opened  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 head red leaf lettuce or favorite lettuce, washed, dried, torn into small pieces

In a large mixing bowl combine the ground beef, Worcestershire sauce, Dijon mustard, salt, pepper and blue cheese. Allow the mixture to rest in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat the butter over medium heat and saute the red onion until it's caramelized, about 15 minutes. Set aside.

Prepare the sauce by combining the chili sauce, horseradish and honey.

Cut each pita pocket in half, yielding 2 triangles. (If you do all these steps while the ground beef rests, you can set up a burger assembly line and save tons of time.)

Form the ground beef into 24 equal-sized patties (2 inches wide) over medium heat for about 4 minutes. Cooking time may vary on the thickness of the patty.

After all the burgers are cooked, start spreading the sauce of the pita pocket to add a burger, a onion and lettuce.

Serve warm. From [KoreyProvencher.com](http://KoreyProvencher.com) Tested by Susan Selasky for the Detroit Free Press

Per serving: 177 calories (17 percent from fat), 10 grams fat (10 grams sat. fat), 12 grams carbohydrates, 11 grams protein, 216 mg sodium, 33 mg cholesterol, 1 mg calcium, 1 gram fiber.

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ABOVE: A BACKYARD VIEW shows the covered patio that leads to the great room addition to the Taylors' Newport Hills, Washington, home including the enlarged master suite with French doors. LEFT: THE NEW GREAT ROOM starts where the old kitchen wall once stood at the Taylors' Newport Hills, Washington, home. The kitchen opens into the room with just an eating bar as a divider.

# Changing the house to mirror a family's changing lifestyle

BY ELIZABETH RHODES  
THE SEATTLE TIMES

Like so many couples, Mark and Pat Taylor faced a multifaceted housing dilemma. As their family grew, their house seemed to shrink. But selling it and buying another, during a time of spiraling housing prices, seemed daunting. Besides, the couple loved their neighborhood and was happy with its schools.

What to do? Like many others in their position, the Taylors decided to stay put and remodel. It's how they

did it that's earned their home a spot on the 10th annual Remodeled Homes Tour. Sponsored by the Master Builders Association of two Washington counties, the tour features 25 professionally remodeled homes.

When the Taylors first approached the firm of Steve Kunkel Master Builders, they simply knew they needed more space. The issue was where to add it to their circa 1959 rambler. At 1,100 square feet, its original floor plan had three bedrooms, one bath, a small living room, kitchen, one-

car garage and combination laundry/mud room barely larger than a phone booth. As for a dining room, there wasn't one.

In other words, it was like the many other ramblers in their neighborhood. "The house was just a basic box," says Pat Taylor, a homemaker who remembers well how much fun it was to potty train her children when four family members had but one potty. The couple's two children, Kathryn and Nicholas, are now 11 and 9.

Many homeowners choose to solve this space dilemma by adding another floor; indeed, that's often the only option in Seattle proper, where lots tend to be small. But the Taylors' spacious suburban lot offered some flexibility. So after some thought, they decided that once a one-story rambler, always a one-story rambler.

"We had no intention of drawing attention to the house," says Mark Taylor, who works in technology for a large bank. "We wanted to stay mellow in the neighborhood."

That's a thought Steve Kunkel heartily seconds. A combination designer/builder in business almost three decades, Kunkel says he always counsels homeowners to do what's appropriate for them, their budgets and their area.

"Appropriate to me means not substantially larger than exists in that neighborhood," Kunkel explains. Appropriate also means remodeling to revitalize a home so it stays true to its roots while also meeting the needs of today's lifestyles.

"The biggest change has occurred in how people eat and cook and entertain," he observes. "People don't segregate themselves so much anymore."

Having purchased the house in 1992, the Taylors knew it well by the time they decided to remodel in 1998. Still, they took a year to think the project through. Their first step: reading and believing a book, "The Not So Big House," by architect and author Sarah Susanka. In it she argues that smaller, carefully edited homes are actually more livable and appealing than the behemoths being built today.

"That really impressed us," Mark recalls.

Kunkel also suggested, not necessarily factiously, that they rent the movie, "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House." Star-

ring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy, the 1948 comedy tells the tale of a couple who find that constructing their dream is a lot more trouble than they thought.

"That's all you need for your dream house," says Pat, laughing. "The Not So Big House" book and "Mr. Blandings."

## THE ORIGINAL PLAN

Their initial plan was to spend \$175,000 to add a great room, update the ridiculous laundry room and replace the drafty single-pane windows.

But restraint is not what happens with many remodels, and so it was once the Taylors mulled over their home's deficiencies. It had no insulation. The bedrooms were cramped, the garage tiny. Wiring, plumbing and furnace all were 1959 originals.

And then there was the bathroom situation. Because of the unfortunate positioning of doors and a window, passersby on the street could look right through one of the kid's rooms and see who was using the facilities. Everyone agreed that had to change.

## DECIDING TO MOVE OUT

Ultimately the Taylors decided rather than doing everything that needed to be done piecemeal over several years' time, they'd bite the bullet, move out and do it all at once. After four months camped in a nearby apartment, the family returned to find what Kunkel says is "essentially a brand-new home."

Here's what happened. The plain Jane facade received a welcoming entry with a peaked roof. Both ends of the house were bumped out several feet so the garage space could be doubled on one end, the bedrooms slightly reconfigured and enlarged on the other. (As a bonus, lengthening the bedroom wing gained enough space to extend the hall, recess a couple of the doors - that solved the bathroom view problem - and add a

hallway focal point, a built-in bookcase.)

What had once been a closet was turned into a powder room adjacent the kitchen. The enlarged master bedroom gained a walk-in closet, a gas fireplace and French doors opening to the private backyard. Completely new is a spacious master bath with a shower and a soaking tub.

The heating, plumbing and wiring systems all are new, as are all the energy-efficient windows, the four-panel doors and interior trim work and six skylights.

Ditto the roof and siding. Those last two upgrades were necessitated by the home's increased size, but replacing the siding was tough for Mark. "I hated the idea of throwing away old-growth cedar siding," he says.

## REMODELED LIFESTYLES

The biggest change reflects Kunkel's goal: to have a remodel reflect changing lifestyles. As he notes, the original house was based on a California ranch style that was less formal than some that had come before it. Still, it reflected a time when Dad sat in the living room and Mom was isolated in the kitchen.

Enough of that. Now the entire family's gathering space is a new great-room addition located at the rear of the house. It begins where the kitchen's back wall once was. With that wall removed, the kitchen opens directly into the new room, separated only by a spacious eating bar.

"Now it really is informal," says Mark happily. "Guests can sit at the bar and cut apples for the crisp. It just feels natural."

To save money, the Taylors opted to keep their old kitchen cabinets, rationalizing that they were still in good shape. They simply ordered more in the same style to add additional storage space. The old living room, meanwhile, has become an inviting library, complete with upholstered reading nook and glass

French doors to give it a quiet privacy. "We're a family of readers," says Pat. "The kids use this room all the time."

## THE BEST PART

Perhaps her favorite part of the remodel is just beyond the kitchen. What used to be the crowded laundry room is now simply a mudroom with built-in storage. It leads to a new laundry room that also doubles as her sewing room and a computer room. A long, built-in counter allows her to work on projects while one of her kids uses the computer.

Steve Kunkel says the success of any remodel hinges on "realistic expectations about money, time and being willing to participate."

After a year's planning, during which they spent hours working with Kunkel, the Taylors felt confident that their remodel would be a success.

Indeed, several years after it was completed, it still looks fresh and new. They say the spaces work marvelously, and they've come to terms with the budget. When the Taylors' original plan for modest additions and improvements went out the window, so did their original cost estimate of \$175,000.

When all was said and done, they'd spent \$260,000 and had seen their house grow by 1,000 square feet, to 2,099. Pat says they agreed to spend the money by rationalizing, "We were going to be here for a while. We thought we'd get it back if we stayed 10 years."

Instead, rising appreciation means they'd recoup their investment in half that time, should they decide to sell. But thanks to the remodel, there's no need to leave the neighborhood they love to get the house they want. They're staying.

BE A HERO. GIVE BLOOD.

## WORKIN' MORE KITCHEN SESSIONS WITH CHARLIE TROTTER



CHARLIE TROTTER has written, "Workin' More Kitchen Sessions with Charlie Trotter."

## Cookbooks

FROM PAGE 2

Charlie Parker and John Coltrane. With the book's green and black cover an homage to the album "Workin'" with the Miles Davis Quintet, "the point is certainly clear. The cook or musician who grasps the building blocks of cooking and techniques," or "note structures and lyricism," improvising begins. The cook or musician who grasps the fundamentals is free to let go of conventions and cook or play in the same flowing way that a conversation unfolds," he writes. This cookbook is the second to pair with his PBS cooking series, "Kitchen Sessions." Inside are numerous action photographs that convey some sense of you-are-there, but they're reproduced in black and light-green tones when black and white would have been more effective. They are hard to read and don't invite lingering. However, the food photography by Kipling Sweha is gorgeous and really helps convey Trotter's mastery of composition and texture.

The chef speaks mostly through his recipes. We hear little else from him. If you want more insight, I guess you'll have to watch the show. But what we do get doesn't disappoint: complicated, elaborate constructions for which fans of Trotter's restaurant and books will be grateful—even if they don't have the stamina and skill to make them.

The format is familiar to readers of his other books. Each chapter is dedicated to a vegetable or other ingredient category, such as artichokes, corn, greens, legumes or tomatoes, with each recipe built around that ingredient. Ingredient lists are long. Long, multi-step directions are in small type, which probably helps them fit on the page, but the 40-and-over-set may have trouble. Headnotes offer insights on the aforementioned improvisations. The chef known for tight control of his food and his kitchen actually gives us permission to change ingredients or "devise your own presentation."

But the fun for most readers will be as armchair cooks. For those who actually delight in trying these recipes, there is inspiration aplenty. — Joe Gray

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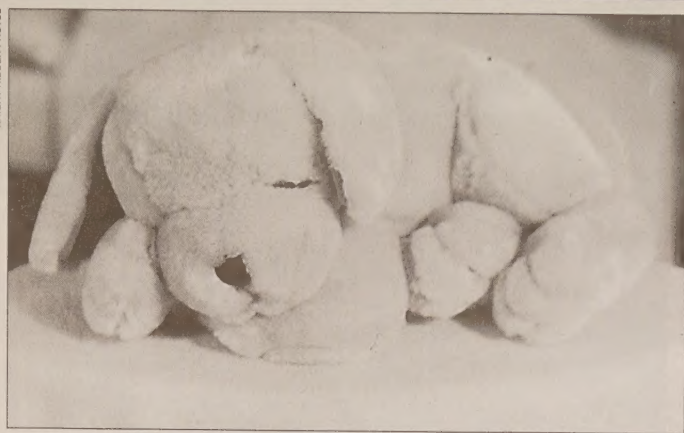
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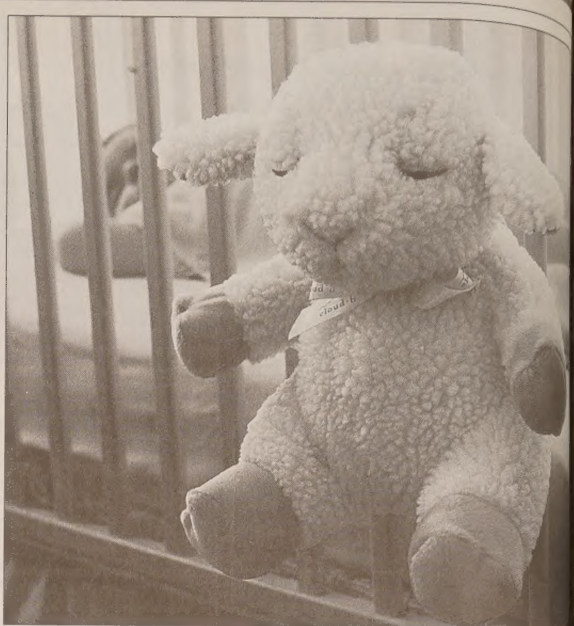


KNIGHT RIDDER PHOTOS



**ABOVE: SLEEP AID COMES IN THE FORM OF LAVENDER LAB, \$24**, which uses aromatherapy to help induce sleep. Inside the Labrador retriever stuffed animal's head and tummy is 100 percent organic lavender, which produces a soothing aroma that lasts up to five years. To release additional scent, just squeeze the lab's head and tummy. Lavender Lab is recommended for ages 2 and older.

**RIGHT THE SLEEP SHEEP FROM CLOUD B** produces four soothing sounds — a mother's heartbeat, spring showers, ocean surf and whale songs — to help a baby sleep through the night. The stuffed sheep, \$25, attaches to the outside of the crib with a Velcro strap. The removable sound box includes adjustable volume, an automatic timeout feature and push-button sound selection.



BY KARALEE MILLER  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

For many parents, a sound night's sleep would be a welcome gift this holiday season. Well, here are two ways to ensure that children and their parents don't lose a second of shut-eye. The Sleep Sheep from

Cloud b produces four soothing sounds — a mother's heartbeat, spring showers, ocean surf and whale songs — to help a baby sleep through the night. The stuffed sheep, \$25, attaches to the outside of the crib with a Velcro strap. The removable sound box includes adjustable volume,

an automatic timeout feature and push-button sound selection.

Sleep aid also comes in the form of Lavender Lab, \$24, which uses aromatherapy to help induce sleep.

Inside the Labrador retriever stuffed animal's head and tummy is 100 percent organic lavender,

which produces a soothing aroma that lasts up to five years. To release additional scent, just squeeze the lab's head and tummy. Lavender Lab is recommended for ages 2 and older. Cloud b products are available online at [www.babysleep.com](http://www.babysleep.com).

## Count on this lavender lab (and sleep sheep) for some shuteye

# Your phone can do more than just ring

BY CRYSTAL DEMPSEY  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

So I was cat-nappin' in the hammock outside, when my cell phone — in the kitchen — rang. After hearing a few notes of "Frontin'" by the Neptunes, I didn't move a muscle.

"Frontin'" is the cell phone "ring" that plays when someone other than family or close friends calls. Chances are, I thought, it's someone from work.

When I got my new cell a few months ago, I joined the rest of world in its fascination with "real music" ring tones.

Yeah, I could have stuck with one of the six standard one-tone ringers or the 20 polyphonics that came with the phone.

But where's the fun in that? Why settle for the theme from "The Sting" when for \$1.95, I could download "Beautiful Day" by U2?

My ring-tone revelry reached a new level when I realized I could assign different songs to people in my "Contacts" list.

I think of it as musical caller ID. I usually pair friends with ringers by their favorite artists. "Live-Freestyle" plays when Mr. Wu-Tang Fan calls. "Super Freak" by Rick James goes off for two of my more adventurous friends. "Sabotage" signals that I'm hearing from a friend who loves the Beastie Boys.

Current Cute Guy has two tones: "Heaven" by Los Lonely Boys for calls; "Take Me Out" by Franz Ferdinand for text-messages.

I hear "We Are Family" by Sister Sledge when any family member remembers that I have a cell phone. I rejected "The Addams Family" theme because of poor sound quality.

Last year, the ring-tone industry scored \$3.5 billion in revenue, according to industry estimates. Users download tone-tunes from Web sites or from their cell phone service providers. Some downloads are free. Most range from \$1 to \$3.50; many sites offer subscriptions.

Billboard magazine is now listing a chart of top ring tones. The

data is compiled from major ring-tone distributors and wireless carriers, according to Billboard.

You can find all types of music: rap, polkas, college fight songs. Plus, there are clips of dialog from movies and TV shows.

Video ring tones are the next big thing, experts say. I can wait for those. Well, at least, until my next cell phone upgrade.

Watch for even more innovative ways to customize cell phones, says Nancy Beaton, Sprint general manager of wireless music and personalization.

The next step in mobile customization is AAC sound, which has CD-like quality, Beaton says.

In addition, there will probably be video ringers that not only play your favorite song, but also show a short clip of the video.

"It's all about personalization," Beaton says. "People buy ringers to customize their phones. They want ringers that are popular, the songs that they enjoy and they want

## RING, DING, DONG IS A THING OF THE PAST

Here are a few sites from which to download ring tones. Check whether your phone is compatible on the site.

**www.3gforfree.com:** Free from your mobile phone. \$7 gets one year of unlimited downloads, previews and a bigger selection from your PC.

**www.3gupload.com:** Free registration. \$10 gets you one year of unlimited downloads. \$6 gets you six months.

**www.mbuzz.com:** Free registration. There are free ringers and ringers for purchase starting at \$1.

**www.mymphonelife.com:** Free registration. It's \$3 a month for unlimited access, \$14 for 6 months and \$29 a year.

**www.metrism.com:** Free registration. There are free ringers and ringers for purchase starting at \$1. Hot Ring Tones

ringers that have a special place for them."

# Start the New Year off right with a walk-around home check

Your home — like your body and your car — needs a regular checkup to run smoothly. An annual, fall walk-around home check is a great way to find any potential maintenance issues before winter arrives.

"It is important to periodically monitor the overall condition of a home," says John Ghent, president of the American Society of Home Inspectors, a non-profit professional organization for home inspectors. "Simple wear and tear from weather and age occurs in every home. It is wise to fix any problems before they lead to extensive and costly repairs."

Your inspection should include all of the major systems that protect your home, including the windows, doors, roof, gutters, exterior finish, foundation, and steps; plus

the interior systems such as heating, cooling, chimney, and electrical, says Pella Corporation's Gary Mathes, manager, residential architectural services. Look for obvious signs of deterioration, damage or potential problems. Check for conditions that may allow moisture to enter your home — from plants and sprinkler systems too close to the house to low-lying areas that direct water toward the home. Likewise, watch for any deteriorating wood, cracks, damaged caulk, old weather stripping, and other potential sources of leaks, says Mathes.

The following 10 items cover common maintenance issues with windows and doors and should be included in your walk-around check:

1. Inspect the interior and exterior finishes around windows and doors. Is the paint or stain in good

condition? Signs of flaking and peeling may mean that it's time to refinish the unit.

2. Look closely at all exterior surfaces for cracking, deteriorated wood and other damage that might be caused by condensation or other water penetration. Are any interior surfaces such as walls, floors or ceilings discolored or showing the effects of moisture?

3. If you spot a problem, try to find its source. For example, discolored wood around a window might actually be caused by moisture entering the house some distance away. With a roof leak, for ex-

ample, it is not uncommon for water to run down the inside of the wall and show up at the window. Contact an expert to obtain help if needed.

4. Check window sills and tracks for dirt and other debris such as sand, leaves, insects, and pine needles. Open the windows and clean out the area with a soft brush. Do the same for sliding patio doors. Debris can hamper the air-tight effectiveness and overall performance of doors and windows.

See CHECK, Page 5

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# Accessorize your digital camera for better shots



**SO YOU GOT A DIGITAL CAMERA FOR CHRISTMAS.** Don't stop there. Check out the multitude of available accessories.

BY PETER WEINBERGER  
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

So you finally purchased a digital camera for that special someone. Now what? Unlike film cameras, there are certain accessories you will need immediately before shooting. The good news is that after an initial investment, you are all set to

make images for a long time. Here are some key items.

**LARGER MEMORY CARD:** The memory card that comes with your camera is pretty useless. Finding the right card can vary depending on the number of image pixels. You should look for a card that can hold around 200 images at the finest JPEG

setting. For example, a 5-megapixel camera should have at least a 512mb memory card. They should not cost more than \$50, with Lexar and SanDisk the top brands.

**EXTRA BATTERIES:** Digital cameras are big power users because of the monitors on the back. Cameras with big 8x to



12x zoom lenses use even more power. All use a rechargeable proprietary lithium battery, or AA batteries. In either case, a second or even third set is needed to ensure your camera is always operational. If you want to take the time, Google your battery type for a less-expensive version than the company brand.

**CAMERA BAG:** Professional photographers take their camera bags very seriously. You should, too. They come in all shapes and sizes, from backpacks to fanny packs. They key is to determine exactly what you need to carry and in what situations.

**TRIPODS:** They have moved way past those huge, clunky, sil-

ver three-legged monsters. Carrying a small mini-tripod is easy and will help you in some difficult situations. Some weigh only 2 ounces. Slik and the Pocket-Pod are popular brands.

Peter Weinberger is the director of photography at the Charlotte Observer.

## Replacing light bulbs saves money

ARA

Looking for an easy way to reduce your home's energy consumption? Try replacing the light bulbs in five of the most frequently used fixtures in your home with compact fluorescent or energy-efficient incandescent bulbs.

While it is extremely versatile, experts encourage consumers not to rely on the standard Soft White bulb for all applications.

"Approximately 75 percent of the electricity used by incandescent bulbs becomes wasted heat, not light," said Richard Dale, a home energy expert with The Home Depot. "You'll also save time buying and changing lights in your home as compact fluores-

cent bulbs are engineered to last for several years."

A survey by Philips Lighting found that the average household has more than 45 bulbs in use of which 25 percent are being misused. Although it is common for people to assume that a standard incandescent bulb will work in all situations, the truth is distinct lighting needs require distinct solutions.

Taking time to understand your home's lighting needs allows you to create distinguished lighting effects that also can help save money on your energy bills.

Simply replacing a standard light bulb or fixture in your home with one that has earned the government's ENERGY STAR rating

contributes to a cleaner environment while reducing your home's energy consumption.

For example, manufacturers today offer compact fluorescent bulbs that last five years and use only 16 watts of energy, but produce light comparable to a 60-watt incandescent. Over the life of the bulb, you can expect to save at least \$26 in energy costs.

"Compact fluorescent bulbs give you the most bang for the buck," said Dale. "Replacing five bulbs in your home can save more than \$60 a year in energy costs. That more than pays for the bulbs as well as puts some extra money in your pocket."

Dale suggests using the end of daylight-saving time as an opportunity to replace standard bulbs with energy-efficient models.

"When changing your clocks this fall, replace frequently-used light bulbs with compact fluorescent and you won't have to do it again for several years," he said. Indeed, compact fluorescent bulbs last up to 13 times longer than common incandescent bulbs making them ideal for hard-to-reach fixtures.

The decorative Halogená line is another solution for making your home more energy efficient.

a small wire, toothpick or similar device, being careful not to expand the holes.

9. Check all exterior sealants and caulking on and around all windows and doors. Pay particular attention to areas susceptible to punishment from rain, water and extreme sunlight. Remove damaged material and reapply sealant.

10. In coastal locations, rinse all exterior metal components and cladding to minimize the corrosive effects of salt spray and fog damage. This should be done at least quarterly.

More importantly, routine maintenance checks could safeguard your family by ensuring that your doors and windows operate properly, the primary and secondary means of escape in the event of fire. In addition to doing a walk-around check of your home, test your smoke detectors and change the batteries every fall so your family will quickly be alerted in the event of a fire. Schedule regular family fire drills at least twice a year.

## Check

FROM PAGE 4

5. Feel for uneven sliding and sticking when you open and close a window or door. If windows or doors stick, try using a non-oily lubricant on the opposing finishes, such as Paraffin wax, which does not attract as much dust and grime.

6. Look at the weather stripping around all doors and windows. Reattach any loose portions that are ripped or torn.

7. Operate locking mechanisms and make adjustments if they feel loose or don't work smoothly. Locks not only help keep out potential intruders, but they hold doors and windows tightly in place to lock out rain, wind, snow, and insects.

8. Inspect any weep holes and breather holes if your windows or sliding patio doors have them. Weep holes allow excess moisture to escape and breather holes allow air exchange within certain components. Clear blocked holes with

Taking time to understand your home's lighting needs allows you to create distinguished lighting effects that also can help save money on your energy bills.

Since Halogená bulbs emit such bright, white light, consumers can select a lower wattage yet still achieve the brightness they seek. The bulbs are designed to last two years, so in addition to energy savings, they cut down on the time spent replacing light bulbs in the home. The stylized flames are ideal for use in chandeliers and sconces; delivering bright light that adds sparkle to a room.

Looking for a helpful hint when selecting the proper lighting for your household?

First select the light output you desire from a fixture and then choose a bulb with the lowest corresponding wattage to save on energy costs.

Courtesy of ARA Content

## Dare to be different

ARA

When you decide it's time to replace your flooring, don't just put down new carpet or tile. Dare to be different and choose a new surface. "I did and am thrilled with the results," says interior designer Judi Larkin.

Four years ago, she renovated the kitchen in her own 1920s era home, and made the floor the focal point. "I went into the project with the goal in mind of expanding the space both physically and visually, and the kitchen went from tiny and cramped to larger than life," she says.

The addition built onto the north end of the kitchen houses an eating area with new windows and skylights, a desk work area with a vintage stained glass window, and an open but hidden pantry. The old kitchen stayed pretty much the same size, but Larkin managed to make it appear bigger using design tricks. She added a diagonally-oriented peninsula and replaced the old vinyl flooring with Forbo Marmoleum.

She had learned about the natural linoleum product made with linseed oil, wood floor, pine rosin, jute and limestone in a

1999 home remodeling magazine, touting it as an updated classic. Marmoleum is available in over 100 colors with various tones and structures. Insets and borders are also available.

"I was really sold on the flexibility it offered. I could do exactly what I wanted with no limitations," says Larkin. What she wanted to do was duplicate a tile pattern she had seen in Mexico. "I spend my winters in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and wanted to bring that sunny, warm feeling home with me where I could enjoy it all year round," she says. "Using this surface made that possible."

Larkin made the new peninsula at the center of her kitchen the focal point, and started laying down 20 inch by 20 inch cream and gold Marmoleum squares, following the diagonal line. Small terra cotta colored squares were cut from another sheet of the material and inserted between the large squares.

For more information about Forbo Marmoleum, or to find the dealer nearest you, log on to [www.themarmoleumstore.com](http://www.themarmoleumstore.com) or call 866-Marmoleum.

— Courtesy of ARA Content

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# Gifts from the vine: Help that oenophile uncork a new appreciation for the grape

BY BILL DALEY

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The New Year is a time to praise and pamper your favorite wine lover with gifts to whet his or her appetite and appreciation for the glorious grape.

Sure, this is the very same person who thought a romantic Napa weekend meant trotting through dusty vineyards, who skipped two months worth of dinners out to pay for that big bottle of Romanee Conti and choked the rec room with dozens of cardboard wine cases. But remember, this is the New Year, so forgive and forget and enjoy.

Uncork a bottle, then, and get your credit card handy as we celebrate the season with a selection of accessories, art and books perfect for the oenophile in your life.

**RAISE A GLASS:** Leave the silver spoons to the hoi polloi, and impress your guests with a "Thumbprint" wine cup. Bearing the streamlined sensuality that is a hallmark of designer Elsa Peretti, the cup is sterling silver lined with vermeil. \$350 at Tiffany's or online, tiffany.com.

**WINE ON CANVAS:** Georgia painter Thomas Arvid has made such a reputation with hyper-realistic oil paintings on various wine themes that the wait for an original can be more than four years and the finished work \$40,000 and up. Limited-edition reproductions of his work, made with high-resolution inkjet printers on canvas, are a more reasonable alternative. Prices vary, but hover between \$2,000 and \$2,500. Still too dear? Consider buying the book instead. Arvid's self-published hardbound coffee table book, "Arvid: Redefining the Modern Still Life" (Thomas Arvid

Fine Art Inc., \$75), is sold at art galleries and via his Web site, thomasarvid.com. A limited edition of leather-bound book packed in a custom-made wooden wine crate costs \$1,250. At Hillgoss Galleries, 312-755-0300, www.hillgoss galleries.com.

**LECHAIM!** Learn everything about Israeli wines today in the 2005 edition of "Rogov's Guide to Israeli Wines" (The Toby Press, \$14.95). Written by Daniel Rogov, a prominent Israeli wine critic, the book covers kosher and non-kosher Israeli wines, giving an overview of Israel's wine industry, from grape varieties to brief descriptions of wineries. There are

reviews of more than 1,000 wines complete with scores and the best times to drink each. At local booksellers, including Borders and Barnes & Noble, and online at amazon.com.

**BIRDS OF A FEATHER:** Wine glass charms are OK in a cutesy way, but feathered coasters you slip on the base of the glass are absolutely faboo. From Lush Life of La Jolla, Calif., these "glass slips" come in vivid colors, including bright fuchsia, acid green, teal blue and plummy purple. The coasters fit on the base of any stemmed wine or cocktail glass and are advertised as a fun, over-the-top way to know whose glass is whose. Just between us, though, we think anyone who buys these eye-poppin' bits of fluff couldn't care less about that. \$8.49 at specialty stores; www.lushlifehome.com.

**WRITING OF THE VINE:** A spiral-bound notebook is all you need to keep a wine journal, but it's more fun to use a book specifically designed it. Meadowsweet Kitchens of New Canaan, Conn., produces a clever journal that lets you mount a bottle's label on a page along with your tasting notes. The journal comes with 25 wine label removers, press-on adhesive squares that remove the top layer of the paper label from the bottle. \$20 at Wine & Cheese by TCC in Plainfield, or online at meadowsweetkitchens.com.

**BAG IT!** The problem with totting wine to a dinner party or BYOB restaurant is what to use as a tote. A crumpled grocery bag just won't do. "Corkage Caddy," a wine tote and gift bag, solves the problem. The reusable carrier comes with a built-in shoulder strap, drawstring closure and see-through fabric that shows off the wine label. The tote folds back into a neat, zippered pocket-sized case. Choose from "grape leaf" green or "cabernet" red. \$9.95 online at corkagecaddy.com or call 866-946-3246.

**WINE PRESERVATION:** Half-empty bottles of wine can be a real pain: The wine inside gets old fast. Wine preservers made by companies like Private Preserve of Napa, Calif., allow you to lay a safe "gas blanket" of nitrogen, carbon dioxide and argon on top of the wine. This gas layer prevents oxygen from coming into contact with the wine, meaning you can store that half-empty bottle for days or weeks

and the wine will still be as fresh as when you opened it. \$10 at wine and spirits stores.

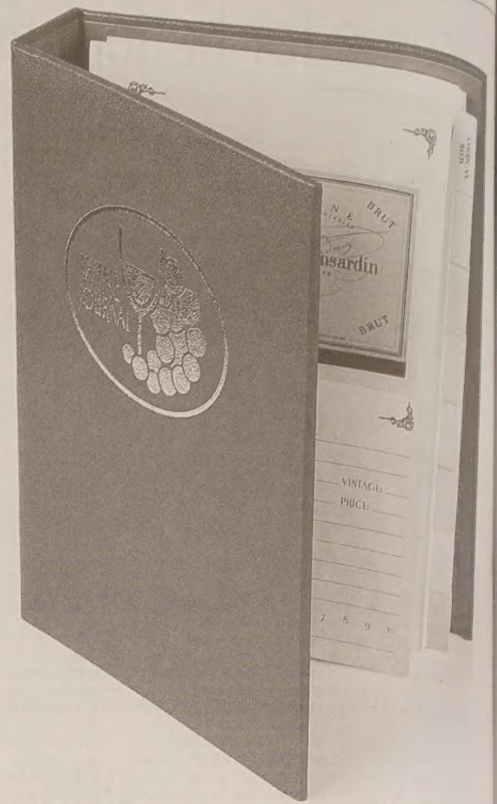
**POUR WITH STYLE:** Give a little oomph to the gift bottle of wine with this inexpensive but handsome chrome wine server from MSC International of Montreal. Called "Le Nouveau," the spout features an airtight resealable cover so you don't have to waste time trying to re-cork a half-empty bottle. The package comes with a short cord noose that slips over the neck of the wine bottle for easy presentation. \$3 at wine stores.

**DISHING DIRT:** Dispel forever the terror of terroir with Jacques Fanet's new book "Great Wine Terroirs" (University of California Press, \$39.95). Fanet is a French specialist in soil science, viticulture and enology. His large-format book, loaded with color photographs and maps, roots about in the soil to find the soul of the wine. France is the book's main thrust but wine regions around the world are also profiled. Online at uopress.edu and amazon.com; or at Barnes & Noble (barnesandnoble.com), or your local bookstore.

**GRAPE TASTES:** Cooking with wine can be almost as pleasurable as drinking wine. Master sommelier Andrea Immer, author of several wine buying guides, is out with her first cookbook "Everyday Dining with Wine" (Broadway Books, \$29.95).

There are 125 recipes, short sketches of wine varietals, suggested menus and wine FAQs. Sid Goldstein, author of "The Wine Lover's Cookbook," returns with "The Wine Lover Cooks with Wine" (Chronicle Books, \$24.95). Look for a brief rundown on various wines, 10 tips on cooking with wines and recipes accented with wine pairings. At bookstores including Barnes & Noble (barnesandnoble.com), Borders and online at amazon.com.

**TASTE 101:** Tasting is so much more than sipping and swallowing. Wine Spectator magazine offers its "Ultimate Wine Tasting Kit." There's a 240-page guide to wine "essentials," a pocket guide to wine, and wine tasting instructions complete with reusable bottle bags, stemware tags and two tasting checklists complete with helpful hints on aromas and flavors. \$39.95 at Borders, Barnes & Noble and online at amazon.com.



**MEADOWSWEET KITCHENS OF NEW CANAAN, CONN.,** produces a clever journal that lets you mount a bottle's label on a page along with your tasting notes. The journal comes with 25 wine label removers, press-on adhesive squares that remove the top layer of the paper label from the bottle.

Sure, this is the very same person who thought a romantic Napa weekend meant trotting through dusty vineyards, who skipped two months worth of dinners out to pay for that big bottle of Romanee Conti and choked the rec room with dozens of cardboard wine cases. But remember, this is the New Year, so forgive and forget and enjoy.

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